



The VMGA Report

A Voice for Virginia Master Gardeners
vmga.net

Sept/Oct 2020

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VMGA Officers

President-
Leslie Paulson
Prince William County

Vice President-
Nelda Purcell
Franklin County

Secretary-
Betsy Brown
Bedford County

Treasurer-
Georgianna Hall
Loudoun County

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Editor-
Peggy Fox, Newport News
with assistance from-
Lynn Hamm,
Western Tidewater

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Virginia Master Gardener Association is to foster communication, education and fellowship among Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers.

From the President Leslie Paulson, Prince William

We held our August VMGA meeting via Zoom® on the 8th. I hope some of you listened in. Anyone can attend our bimonthly meetings. If you are interested, send an email to any Board member or Committee Chair via the VMGA website.

Board Members: <http://vmga.net/board-meet.php>

Committee Chairs: <http://vmga.net/committees-chairs.php>

Our next meeting, via Zoom, will be held on October 10th at 10 am. The By-Laws changes primarily addressing Association operation during the pandemic, were sent to all VMGA members and voting will occur at the October 10 meeting. (see draft of by-laws on pages 2-3.)

Over the last two years, Wanda Gerard, our Immediate Past President, had a focus point to share ideas. If you have a suggestion for something you would like to ask of other Units, let me know. Please consider sending news of any classes (most likely via Zoom®) and we will post it on the VMGA website. Send this information to Joan Richards, by using this link: Calendar@vmga.net

I'm busy organizing Prince William's Fall Plant Sale. We are having people make an appointment to come to our Teaching Garden. We will allow 10 people to come each hour. This is a first and I'm trying to think of everything: spreading the plants further apart, allowing people 45 minutes to shop and pay, and they leave before the next group arrives. I'll let you know if this worked. There are guidelines from Virginia Tech to help you figure it all out. Masks, of course, are needed, as well as hand sanitizer.

If anyone has a great article to share it, send it on to Peggy Fox at: newsletter@vmga.net If you enjoyed it, we will too. Please stay safe and if you have a Master Gardener in your Unit who is totally shut in, give them a call and brighten their day. It does the heart good. Take care and stay safe.

Leslie

Got an upcoming event to publicize?

Submit your unit announcements to the State MG Coordinator for inclusion in the Bi-Weekly EMG Update
<https://www.mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/biweekly-submission/>

AND

also to our **VMGA Calendar of Events** in care of:
Calendar@vmga.net

Submissions via email should include:

- The title of your event
- The date of your event
- A sentence describing your event
- The location of your event
- A link or attachment providing additional information

In the news:

Has your unit or have the members of your unit been featured in your local newspaper? Let us know! Send links to:
newsletter@vmga.net

State Fair of Virginia 2020

For the first time in over seventy-five years, the State Fair of Virginia has been cancelled. First debuted in 1854 on the grounds of what is now Monroe Park in Richmond, the State Fair was founded by the Virginia State Agricultural Society. Over the years the Fair has changed venue locations several times as it grew to be a much anticipated and major event for Virginians and visitors alike. For photos and more on the history of our beloved State Fair, go to:

<https://richmondmagazine.com/news/news/a-fair-history/>

VMGA BY-LAWS: PROPOSED CHANGES

Voting is open to current VMGA members only. The form to join or renew can be found here: <https://vmga.net/wordpress/vmga-membership-application-renewal-form/>

(Proposed changes are highlighted in red.)

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors will consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees, the Immediate Past President, and the Extension Representative.

Section 2. The Board will fix the date, time and place of meetings, determine the Association's Standing Rules, and perform such other duties as are listed in these bylaws or prescribed by the membership. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Association and none of its acts shall conflict with the action taken by the membership.

Section 3. The Board will meet at least four times a year. Any Association member may attend these meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President and will also be called upon written request of at least twenty-five (25%) of the Board. **Board members who are not present in person will have the right to participate by telephone or electronically. The Board may meet electronically as in Article IX, Section 4.**

Section 4. Fifty percent (50%) of the Board will constitute a quorum at all Board meetings.

ARTICLE IX

Meetings of the Association

ABOUT VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (VCE)

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 VCE, 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. VCE 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.

Section 1. The Annual Meeting. The Association will hold an annual meeting each year, at a date, time and place to be determined by the Board. The membership will install officers, **approve the budget**, and/or transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting. Notice of annual meetings will be mailed at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings. A special meeting may be called by the President, a majority of the Board, or by a petition of not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting membership. Special meetings will be held at a time and place to be determined by the Board and within forty five (45) days of the date that they are called. Notice of any special meeting will be distributed to each member at least thirty (30) days before the meeting and will include a statement of the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is being called.

Section 3. Quorum. Ten percent (10%) of the voting membership will constitute a quorum at Association meetings.

Section 4. Meetings Held Electronically. Meetings of the Association may be conducted through use of Internet meeting services that support voting, visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, showing text of pending motions and showing the results of votes. Electronic meetings may be held when so directed by the Board or, in the case of special meetings, when so directed by those calling the special meeting. Electronic meetings will be subject to all rules adopted by the Board to govern them. Any such rules adopted by the Board will supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the Association.

MG COLLEGE 2020

Recorded sessions from our Virtual MG College are available for viewing by paid registrants through December 2020.

You will need your USER ID and PASSWORD which was created with your VT Guest Account. **Please note that session recordings are for personal use only. Please do not share video recordings with your friends or with EMGs who did not register for college!**

To access CANVAS, go to: <https://login.vt.edu/profile/cas/login?execution=e1s1>

VMGA Website

Leslie Paulson,
Prince William

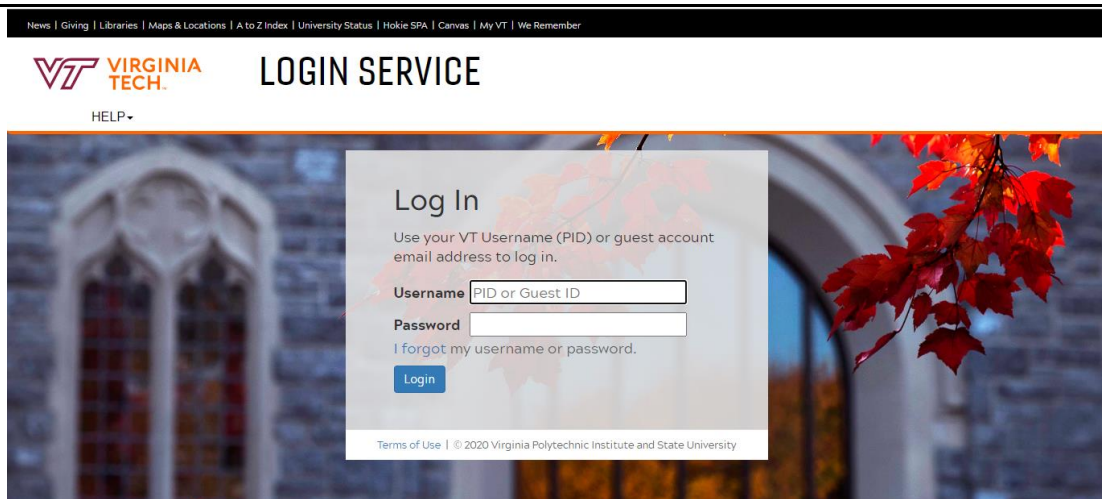
Please submit additions,
corrections or report
broken links to:
Leslie Paulson at:
ljp6651@comcast.net

Dave Banks
webmaster@vmga.net

VMGA

Membership has its
advantages:

- Online modules
- Unit Support
- Scholarships
- Newsletter
- Advanced Training
- Discount event fees
- Membership Directory
- Statewide Networking



VMGA EDUCATION—EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Kirk Barley, Central Shenandoah

VMGA is happy to announce that we are accepting applications for educational event sponsorships. Between now and May 2021, we hope to sponsor units hosting educational events in their area. So, if you are planning a symposium, workshop or other event that provides advanced continuing education to Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) and/or to the public, please apply for a sponsorship to defray your costs.

Questions? Ask your VMGA Unit Rep, any member of the VMGA Education Committee, or send an email to Education@VMGA.net.

The Cover Letter and Example, and Application can be found at:
<http://vmga.net/vmgaeducationsponsorships.php>

From VCE State MG Coordinator's Office

Updated Facebook event guidance – When scheduling Facebook events for your unit symposiums, seminars, talks, etc., please add the state office page as a co-host! More info here:

<https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/current-resources/communications-resources/>

Leadership Development

This year the State EMG Office will be hosting a virtual leadership series in place of our in-person leadership development training. These sessions will take place every Thursday in October at 1 p.m. You can register for all five sessions or just the ones of your choosing. We welcome all active Master Gardeners to join us for these sessions.

October 1: Volunteer Engagement in a Virtual World

October 8: Coming Together for Racial Understanding Dialogue

Resources

Find out more here

[Extension Master Gardener website](#)

[VMGA.NET](#)

[VCE MG YouTube](#)

[State Office Blog](#)

[VCE—Facebook](#)

[Volunteer Management System](#)

[Online Learning Opportunities](#)

[VA EMG Bi-weekly Update](#)

[Marketing and Branding Resources](#)

October 15: Programming Pivots: New Program Development during the Pandemic

October 22: Creating Engaging Presentations

October 29: People Problems: Managing Conflict Locally

Please visit the EMG website (link provided below) for more details on each session and to access the registration link. If you are not able to click on the link and go, please copy and paste it directly into your browser.

Leadership Development Series:

<https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/current-resources/leadership/>

And the honor goes to....

By Eileen Ballance, Norfolk



**Congratulations Tom!
A Master Gardener
extraordinaire - an
Emeritus honor most
deservedly earned**



Congratulations to Tom Bolt, Class of 1999, who was awarded Emeritus status in recognition of his extensive work over 21 years as a Norfolk Extension Master Gardener.

Tom was born in Anderson, SC and attended the University of South Carolina. Tom worked with the South Carolina Highway Department before serving our country for five years as a United States Marine. He worked for Norfolk Southern Railroad for thirty-five years in Sales, Marketing and Executive positions. During the Carter Administration he served four years at the Pentagon, first as Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy (Feb 1977 - Jul 1979) and then as Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense (Aug 1979 - Feb 1982). He retired from Norfolk Southern RR as Assistant Vice President, Marketing, in 1995.



Links to places of interest around the state:

Virginia Is For Lovers

Blandy Experimental Farm

Hahn Hort Garden

Norfolk Botanical Garden

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Maymont

Williamsburg Botanical Garden

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at JMU

I Love Gardens.com

Virginia Gardening

Greenspring Gardens

Southern Virginia Botanical Gardens, South Boston, VA

US National Arboretum

The Quarry Gardens at Schuyler

Tom was finishing up his second term as Junior Warden at his church and his third year serving as a docent at the Chrysler Museum when he began looking for a new activity. He was a newly blossomed Master Gardener when the NMGA sent out a request for someone to take over the unit newsletter. This was just the challenge he needed, so he responded and put together a team, publishing their first issue as the Nov-Dec 1999 *Germinator*. Thus, began Tom's 21-year journey with Extension Master Gardeners.

Tom has participated in many of the Norfolk EMG projects, having accumulated an astonishing 11,332 hours. He retired from the Norfolk MG unit on March 1, 2020. Highlighting his leadership in our organization is this list of his most important roles: **NMGA Steering Committee Chairman, Jan 2010 – Dec 2011**

VMGA President, Jun 2013 - Jun 2015, and

Norfolk MG Coordinator, Mar 2015 – Sep 2019

Among Tom's other accomplishments, he has been a regular and frequent participant on the Speakers Bureau circuit, delivering educational presentations on a variety of horticultural topics. He also served as Publicity/Communications co-chair and as webmaster of www.nmgv.org from its inception until 2019. He recognized early on the value of the Volunteer Management System (VMS) for data collection and communications sharing and volunteered Norfolk as one of the earliest VCE-MG units to transition to this new program in 2013.

Tom has a special interest in water conservation since he lives on the water. He was instrumental in launching Norfolk's Advanced MG Water Steward program, taking part in the very first Water Steward training class at MG College in 2007 and again in 2011. As WS Program chairman, he mentored the earliest Norfolk MG Water Steward interns through their projects: three rain gardens installed at the Virginia Zoo, and two rain gardens at sites along Colley Avenue (Fellini's/Knitting Mill Creek Community Garden and another at 47th Street). In a departure from area flooding, Tom also led the establishment of the Native Dune Demonstration Garden in East Beach. With each project, Tom guided the individual program leaders in networking with City authorities to get the needed permits, tools, plants, and community volunteers.

During Tom's tenure he has worked closely with several Extension Agents. When he started, the Norfolk VCE Agent was Dawn Alleman, but after she left, he participated on the Interview and Hiring Teams for Lynnette Swanson, Eric Stormer, Andrea Tomlin and Chris Epes.

Working beyond our own unit, Tom helped advance the continuing education of Master Gardeners statewide as a member of the MG College Advisory Team for many years through 2018, helping to ensure a fulfilling program of speakers, events, food, and administrative services for attendees at Virginia Tech every June. He is a Lifetime member of the VMGA and was our VMGA Unit Representative for the years 2012 – 2016. Even in "retirement," Tom continues his service and was officially recognized at the June 2020 VMGA meeting as their Communications lynchpin.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech
Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

Tom’s special interest is gardening, but he is also known as “Mr. Fix-it.” One of his extracurricular activities has been to play Santa Claus at local shelters for battered women, several schools and has also played Saint Nicholas at church.

Tom’s family circle consists of his wife, Suzanne, one son, two daughters, three grandsons and one granddaughter.

We thank Tom for his unselfish and superb service to the VCE-MG program, especially to the Norfolk MG unit. We wish him and his family the absolute best of everything in his retirement.

2020 VMGA BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

Our meetings will be held via Zoom. Watch for upcoming emails for further details.

October 10	Zoom®
December 12	Zoom®
February 13, 2021	JCC/Williamsburg jccwmg.org

THE GRAINETHUMB George Graine, Fairfax

VIVA PERENNIALS!

“Herbaceous – A plant that doesn’t have woody tissue and dies back to the ground in the winter in colder climates.” ---Pamela Bennett and Maria Zampini in Garden-pedia

Do we need another book on perennial plants or do we need a perennial book that is unlike a bookshelf full of limited and/or outdated information? The answer is obvious because Dr. Allan M. Armitage, known to many in the green industry as Dr. A, has nailed it by producing the most up-to-date and thorough book. In addition to his distinguished academic career, he has written numerous books on a variety of horticultural subjects.



His latest on perennials will be hard to top. The title is “Herbaceous

Perennial Plants: A Treatise on their Identification, Culture, and Garden Attributes” - Fourth Edition (Stipes Publishing LLC, 2020). His first book on perennial plants was written 31 years ago and at that time it was the leading resource for these type plants. Now after three decades of plant exploration, changes to taxonomy, genetics (DNA), laboratory tissue culture and more that have taken place, we now have numerous and improved plants. This new book is carefully researched from many of these various angles. The fourth edition reflects a resource for new cultivars, new genera and even new names. It brings information up to date because a lot has changed, horticulturally speaking, since his 646-page first edition in 1989. Now in 2020, Dr. A’s text is close to twice the number of pages.

It is not over the top to refer to this book as the perennial plant bible for newbie gardeners, experienced gardeners, Master Gardeners and landscape designers. Dr. A has a writing style, including subtle humor, that makes for easy and understandable reading for gardeners regardless of their proficiency. No one should be disappointed with his explanations in a tell-it-like-it-is writing style because Dr. A has a unique way of explaining the how and why of herbaceous perennials. In his own words he likes to use the phrase “garden worthiness” in addition to many other attributes such as cultivar selection, size, seasonality, etc. This is an interesting addition to the gardener’s mantra of right plant, right place and let’s add right purpose too. Not to be ignored are more than 300 color photographs that will help to enhance some of the plant descriptions.

Before getting into the nitty-gritty of the book, Dr. A included eight pages of his personal thoughts on gardening in general. This sets the basis for his encyclopedia on perennial plants that follows. He knows how people think and how behavior has changed over time. Included in his “manifesto” and personal introductory remarks is a quote by the Turkish philosopher Heraclitus (535-475 BC) in which he stated, “The only thinking that is constant is change.” Surely, he was not referring to horticulture, but how prescient is this quote today when applied to gardens and gardeners. Nevertheless, this statement is still an accurate one. Take to heart the last paragraph of Dr. A’s thoughts on gardening. He says “The most important thing about gardening is to have fun. There will be some aches, frustration, money poorly spent, and disappointment, but the pleasure should always outweigh the pain. Don’t get serious, ever, about gardening. The worst oxymoron in all of horticulture is - serious gardener. Don’t be one; let it wash over you and enjoy the day.” Amen Dr. A. That sums it all up!

In summary, perennials are an extremely important part of the garden because they “... have a unique charm and flavor to any garden.” This is true because season after season they add interest and change. Of course, you can probably expect some changes in the near future because horticultural science keeps evolving. So, stay tuned because there is more to come. But...as Dr. A says, “If one wants to see the demise of gardening, keep making it complicated.” As the editor of the Virginia Master Gardener Association newsletter says – you need to “Stay well, stay calm, get some exercise” and by all means – “garden on!”

PMGs SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY THROUGH CULTIVATE CHARLOTTESVILLE SEEDLING GIVE AWAY

Mary Voorhees, Piedmont MGs

(reprinted with permission from *The Cultivator*, Piedmont MGs August Newsletter
www.piedmontmastergardeners.org)

The School Garden Grant Committee awarded the City Schoolyard Garden (now Cultivate Charlottesville) a \$400 grant to support a Spring Seedling Project that involved middle and high school students. Students researched, started and cared for over 9,000 vegetable, herb and flower seedlings in February and early March while school was still in session. The seedlings are typically distributed to farm, school and community gardens working to build food security in the Charlottesville community. This year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cultivate Charlottesville staff recognized a need to improve access to healthy foods for families who are at a higher risk of food insecurity and health disparities. Staff decided to purchase large pots and soil and to print basic plant care cards to provide the opportunity for families in need to grow their own food at home. To help offset the cost of pot purchases, Fern Campbell requested donations of large pots from PMGs who generously responded by donating over 120 pots. A special “shout-out” to Susan Hall and Fern for their donations of 75 pots and 50 pots respectively! Cultivate Charlottesville staff set up pick-up stations at Friendship Court, Greenstone and 5th and Hearthwood and followed safety precautions to distribute 260 soil-filled pots. Each family was able to choose the seedlings they wanted to plant and to request staff help if needed with planting. Community members were excited about this opportunity and continue to share stories with Cultivate Charlottesville staff about their plants. Jeanette Abi-Nader, the Cultivate Charlottesville executive director, wrote: Cultivate Charlottesville would like to extend our sincere appreciation to... the Piedmont Master Gardeners for supporting the City Schoolyard Garden Spring Seedling Project this year. It was truly the highlight of a very stressful spring and we have seen the potted gardens thriving at many neighbors’ houses.

HOW TO HIRE AN ARBORIST OR TREE CARE COMPANY

Submitted by George Graine, Fairfax

A qualified arborist or tree care company can help you decide how to best care for

your trees or when a tree should be cut down. Use these guidelines to help you find an arborist or tree care company.

DOES MY TREE NEED TO BE REMOVED?

Here are some signs that you should cut down your tree.

- ✓ Dead tree branches in the tree or on the ground.
- ✓ Mushrooms near the base of the tree.
- ✓ Excessive leaf loss or dead leaves.
- ✓ Areas of rotten wood or cavities.
- ✓ Noticeable change in the leaning of the tree.

If a dead or dying tree is on your property, you should remove it immediately if it is danger to your home or people. Before you cut it down, make sure the tree isn't on an easement or other protected land.

If a dead or dying tree isn't a danger to people or buildings, you can leave it on your property. Dead trees help wildlife and the ecosystem as they decay.

Who to hire

- ✓ Check for membership in professional organizations, such as the International Society of Arboriculture, The Tree Care Industry Association or the American Society of Consulting Arborists.
- ✓ Look for companies that employ certified arborists. You can check for certification on line at www.treesaregood.com.
- ✓ Ask for proof of insurance. This includes personal and property damage insurance, as well as worker's compensation insurance.

What to do Before Hiring

- ✓ Get more than one estimate and don't always accept the lowest bid.
- ✓ Make sure to get it in writing and read the contract carefully. Does the contract cover everything promised?
- ✓ Beware of individuals who go door-to-door offering bargains.
- ✓ Find out who is responsible for disposing of the entire tree, including limbs and debris. Will the stump be removed? You may be able to save money by recycling the wood from your tree.

Calendar 2020

Sept Please visit VMGA.org for calendar listings

Oct 10 VMGA Bi-monthly Board Meeting, via Zoom

Calendar 2021

Sept 13-17 “Cultivate Our Legacy”
International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC), Norfolk
Save the dates!

<https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/>