



The VMGA Report

THE Voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

<https://vmga.net/wordpress/>

March/April 2021

Volume 26, Number 5

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Leslie Paulson, Prince William

Vice President-
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Franklin County

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Bedford County

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Georgianna Hall
Loudoun County

From the President Leslie Paulson, Prince William

Here we are, almost spring. I'm sure as we all think back to last year at this time, we had no idea how our habits and daily lives would change. Yet, we have found ways to still be Master Gardeners and provide educational opportunities for our group and the public. So many, in fact, you could find yourself sitting at your computer for hours watching live and recorded classes. It's not so good for your waistline, but now that we can start getting out to work in our yards, I'm hoping that problem will be solved.



So many units are hosting Zoom® classes. Our Education Committee is sponsoring some as well. I want to remind you all how our Standing Rules for VMGA defines what our Education Committee is charged with:

Plan and conduct, with the approval of the Board, continuing education programs at an advanced level for VCE-MGs with at least two sessions in different regions each VMGA fiscal year. These educational programs will normally take place spring and fall.

This basically states that VMGA trains Master Gardeners. You should think of it as training the trainers, which is an important job. The programs our Education Committee puts on are not for the public. All our county/city units do this very well. VMGA gives Master Gardeners new opportunities to meet their education requirements, as well as gain knowledge to share with the public.

At our Annual Meeting in June, we will be voting on a change of language to our By-Laws regarding Membership. Lifetime Membership will be changed to Continuing Membership. In addition, the recommendation is that the phrase "in good standing" be removed from the definition of Lifetime Membership, as it is redundant. An Active Member is defined as a member in good standing. I refer you to the VMGA website under Governance, where you can find a copy of the By-Laws

VMGA

Membership has its advantages:

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

FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for May/June issue:

April 24, 2021

We'd love to feature your unit's announcements, events or articles in the next issue. Articles can be about a favorite plant, tree, project, book review. This will encourage involvement around the state, getting more involved.

Please send to:
Peggy Fox,
VMGA Newsletter Editor
Newport News unit
newsletter@vmga.net

to review what is currently written: <https://vmga.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-12-12-VMGA-Bylaws.pdf> The Standing Rules will be updated as well and voted on by the Board of Directors.

Things are going well for us, but my big worry right now is filling the positions of Fund-Raising Chair and Merchandise. Having these positions vacant means we are unable to sell any VMGA items. This also means a loss of income to the State EMG Coordinator Endowment Fund. Please talk it up to your group. Serving in one of these positions is a great way to meet many of our Master Gardeners across the state. If you have a suggestion, please let me know. President@vmga.net

Wanda Gerard is collecting Virginia agriculture and heritage inspired recipes to compile and to give free to all who attend International Master Gardener Conference. Send any recipes you would like to share to her at: pastpresident@vmga.net. With all the cooking we are doing at home these days, a new recipe would be a gift. She would like them by May 31st.

Exciting news! Preliminary details for the upcoming International Master Gardener Conference 2021 are now available at: <https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/>. Conference registration for six days of programming and events will begin April 5. Cost to attend via Zoom® will be \$150. Exclusive tee shirts will be available for purchase. Each registered attendee will also receive a "goodie box".

Please join us at our next Board Meeting on April 10th. You might find that you wish to join the group and help us out on one of our committees. Just get in touch with me or your Unit Rep for the link we will use for our meeting. Take care and we will see how the month of March treats us this year.

Thank you,
Leslie

2021 VMGA BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

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

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| April 10 | Arlington/Alexandria Master Gardeners of Northern VA |
| June 12 | Annual Meeting Host Unit: Central Rappahannock Area
www.mgacra.org |
| August 14 | Loudoun www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org |
| October 9 | Host needed |
| December 11 | Host needed |

**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.

Diane Relf VMGA SCHOLARSHIPS

Tonya Harper, Scholarship Chair, Roanoke

Planning to attend International Master Gardener Conference in September? Good news! There will be twenty (20) Diane Relf VMGA Scholarships awarded this year, each in the amount of \$150. Any active, certified Extension Master Gardener who plans to attend IMG2021 is eligible to win. The scholarship application must originate with, and be submitted by, the unit agent or Master Gardener coordinator. However, it is appropriate for you to express your interest and provide details of your service to a nominator who makes the final decision about whose application will be forwarded to the VMGA Scholarship Committee. No more than 2 applications per unit are allowed.

For guidelines and a scholarship application, please visit our website at: www.vmga.net/wordpress, select Education → Diane Relf Scholarship.

Submissions will be accepted March 1 through June 5, 2021. All scholarship applications should be submitted, by agent or MG coordinator, via email to: Tonya Harper, sunset67@ntelos.net. Selected awardees and extension agents/MG coordinators will be notified by e-mail or telephone by the chairman of the committee by July 15, 2021.

For further information, you may contact the Scholarship Committee chairperson, Tonya Harper, at 540-966-2190, or sunset67@ntelos.net. Members of the committee are Marilyn Riddle, Ted Munns, Jim Revell, Ellen Paquette, and Erica Jones.

VMGA Sponsored Education

Fern Campbell, Albemarle/Charlottesville

Save the Date: March 15, 2021

Join this VMGA sponsored education event via Zoom® to learn more about how EMGs successfully engage in Therapeutic Horticulture programs.

The nurturing of a plant is a small but powerful thing. Through positive connections with plants, nature and people, Horticultural Therapy/Therapeutic Horticulture can help a variety of populations with healing and growth. Learn more about how EMG's are successfully engaging with professional HT/TH programs and developing new programs to expand outreach into their communities. This program is for anyone interested in exploring the field of therapeutic horticulture.

Panelists will include:

Dr. Diane Relf, Professor and Extension Specialist, VT, retired, and founding member of AHTA, who will give us the history and foundation of Horticulture Therapy;

Resources

Find out more here:

VMGA.NET

**VCE MG Program--
Facebook**

**VCE MG Program--
YouTube**

**VCE MG Program--
Blog**

**VA Cooperative
Extension—Facebook**

**Volunteer
Management System**

**Online Learning
Opportunities**

**VA EMG Bi-weekly
Update**

Links to other events
around the state:

**Virginia Is For
Lovers**

**Blandy Experimental
Farm**

Hahn Hort Garden

Jan Lane, EMG Loudoun County and Horticulture Therapist, will clarify for the audience the difference between Horticulture Therapy and Therapeutic Horticulture/Gardening and give the perspective of a registered Horticultural Therapist;

Rieppe Hendrick, EMG-Wake County North Carolina, will talk about the gap EMGs can fill between potential participants and professional Horticulture Therapy programs, using examples from the Wake County NC Therapeutic Horticulture Program; <https://www.aphasiaproject.org/team/rieppe-hendrick/?v=7516fd43adaa>

Linda Lucas, from the James City/Williamsburg experience, will cover reaching out and contracting with facility endpoints, including what parameters are set with partnering organizations; and

Phyllis Turner, PhD, RN, EMG-Bedford County, will present ideas and examples from the award winning Bedford Therapeutic Horticulture program.

Advanced registration is required.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwscO-urTgoHNfFEq_zzwbNPiBrBb2RXkZm

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

VIRGINIA RECIPES WANTED

Calling for recipes for a Virginia IMGC 2021 Cookbook Please email a copy of your favorite recipes to Wanda Gerard at: vagardengurl@aol.com. Recipes should feature Virginia agricultural products or have some historical/cultural significance to the Commonwealth. Also, because our attendees live across the globe, please include American and metric measurements for your recipes. Conversion charts can be found online.

THE GRAINETHUMB

Landscaping *Your Way*

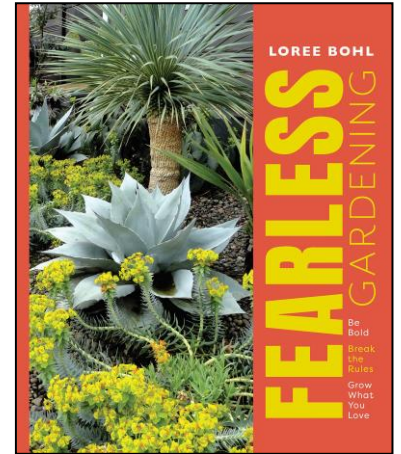
George Graine, Fairfax Master Gardener.

"If you are not killing plants, you are not really stretching yourself as a gardener."

---J.C. Raulston, 1940-1996, Founder of J.C. Raulston Arboretum, NCSU

At last, a book you may have been waiting for has been written by Loree Bohl. It is called "**Fearless Gardening: Be Bold, Break the Rules, Grow What You Love**" (Timber Press, 2021). Before the introductory chapter, Bohl includes a few words that set the stage for what is to come in the next 250+ pages, including beautiful color photos that help get her points across. She writes: "To every gardener who has ever thought, but

I can't or I shouldn't, yes you can and yes you should." There you have it – permission granted! This book is a heretofore way to garden that you may not have previously considered. Think of yourself as an iconoclast. Surely not a word associated with horticulture; however, this is what it takes to be a fearless gardener. For gardeners, this word can be defined as: an image breaker and one who assails traditional landscape beliefs that some may refer to as "garden commandments." Why is the opening quote to this article so appropriate? Because Bohl is spot on when she writes, "Experimentation is at the core of building a garden. It's only through trial and error, and dead plants that you discover what works."



To get a flavor of "Fearless Gardening," below are just a few chapter headings that will empower and inspire you to do your own thing in the garden. You will quickly realize there are other ways to garden because now you have been given "permission" to break the rules. For example:

- ✓ There is No Right Way to Garden
- ✓ Create a Garden You Love
- ✓ Explore the Possibilities
- ✓ Grow the Unexpected

In other words, set aside those illustrated pre-planned landscape designs that often appear in popular horticulture magazines and other sources. For sure, all appear to have a nice appearance and are most likely an easily achieved landscape or garden bed. Now ask yourself a serious question: Do these designs reflect who you are and your personality? If the answer is NO, then consider designing a garden that pleases you and creates your own personal space. Think happy plants = happy gardeners.

The point of "Fearless Gardening" is for you to look at your plants in a different way. Those pre-planned designs noted above are not particularly inspiring. Forget trying to impress your community. Your garden should be about selfishly pleasing yourself. On becoming a fearless gardener, you will challenge yourself and experiment. Do not become overly concerned if "it" does not work as planned or imagined. For some, you have permission (that word again) to do your own thing, unless you happen to live in a HOA community and must garden by their hidebound regulations. You need to get over fear of failure and take chances. Of course, you want to achieve success, but with some failure, as in many things about life, comes an understanding. If you get bored looking at

some plants, do not fret. Perhaps the plant du jour will brighten your day and your garden too. There is no end in sight because plant propagators continue to tantalize us every year with new, different and improved plants. Think new plants and new ideas. Stay true to your dreams and fashion them into a garden reality.

Another way to consider this book is to avoid the way we were probably taught as children to only draw inside the lines in a coloring book. Is it possible that this learned behavior tends to stifle garden creativity? Is this the reason why the words “garden commandments” noted earlier insist on the boundaries of a landscape design? Who is to say this is the right thing to do? Fortunately, no teacher is leaning over your shoulder now and going tut-tut. Consider your garden creation over time. Do you still like it? Perhaps a tweak here and there could be just the cherry on the top. You have so many opportunities to be creative with plants as well as with garden art. It is never too late to plan your new personal space.

Fearless gardening also means you can grow a diversity of plants and not adhere to the standard of odd number of 3-5-7 plants of the same variety. Consider plants for pollinators, evergreens—broad-leafed and needled, trees with interesting bark, ornamental grasses, ferns, and of course, flowering shrubs and, not to be forgotten, flowers and bulbs. Also, consider all four seasons and how some plants will look when leafless. You might even consider how the garden looks in the moonlight. This can be so enchanting along with the sounds that you do not hear in the daytime.

In summary, gardening in a fearless way is really a paradox. Initially you probably think you are in complete control, but then Mother Nature steps in. This can be good or unfortunately, not exactly what you had envisioned when you decided to take on some planting risks. It is easy to reclaim control by adjusting your design ideas. With a few new plant purchases, this may now result in the garden you anticipated. You must be bold, go ahead and break the rules and, of course, grow what you love.

If this article interested you, then for further “education,” check out these resources:

www.thedangergarden.com (author’s web site),

www.outlawgarden.blogspot.com

www.paintbrushgardens.com

<https://frustratedgardener.com>

JC Raulston Arboretum <https://jcra.ncsu.edu/>

Calendar 2021

- Mar 11 PMG Lecture #2 Carol Heiser: What Is Conservation Landscaping?
- Mar 15 VMGA Edu Event: How EMGs Can Successfully Engage in Therapeutic Horticulture Programs
- Mar 18 PMG Lecture #3 Mike Raupp – What a Warming World Means for Plants, Pests, and Their Natural Enemies
- Mar 18 Vegetable Grafting for Home Gardens: Why & How to Graft Your Own Transplants with Josh Kardos
Advance registration required:
https://virginiatech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtduigqzgsG9Al5hgp3lrvl_iunj6KjO4w
- Mar 20 Loudoun County MG Annual Symposium
<http://loudouncountymastergardeners.org/events/annual-symposium/>
- Mar 25 PMG Lecture #4 Robyn Puffenbarger: Robins to Raptors: Observing Birds in Our Backyards
- April 5 IMGC 2021 Registration begins
- April 10 8th Annual Garden Symposium presented by the Master Gardeners of the Central Rappahannock Area
- April 17-24 The Path Forward: Historic Garden Week 2021
<https://www.vagardenweek.org/>
- April 24 Deadline for submissions to VMGA newsletter**
- April 22-25 Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium
<https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/on-site-opportunities/>
- May 1 SFE Application deadline <https://www.imgcsfe.com/>
- June 5 IMGC 2021 Scholarship applications due
- June 5-13 Philadelphia Flower Show
<https://phsonline.org/the-flower-show>
- Sept 13-17 International Master Gardener Conference--Virtual
“Cultivate Our Legacy”
<https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/>