



It is the 20th Master Gardener College. Please join us at Virginia Tech.



Water: Our Living Connection



The 20th Master Gardener College
June 19-24, 2007

Our theme this year is water. Almost everything having to do with gardening also has to do with water. Let's learn about all the connections together. We will have something to interest every Master Gardener.

20th Master Gardener College

June 19-24, 2007

This year there are many new opportunities

Including:

Advanced Master Gardener Training: Water Quality

Service learning for teachers and college credit

Service projects for Master Gardeners

And more!

This year, Master Gardener College will be held Tuesday June 19th through Sunday June 24th. It is our 20th Anniversary of Master Gardener College. Our old familiar traditions will continue, but they will be joined by many new opportunities to learn, communicate, grow, and serve. Come and join us. See your old friends, and make some new ones.

20th Master Gardener College

Tuesday afternoon – Two Tracks

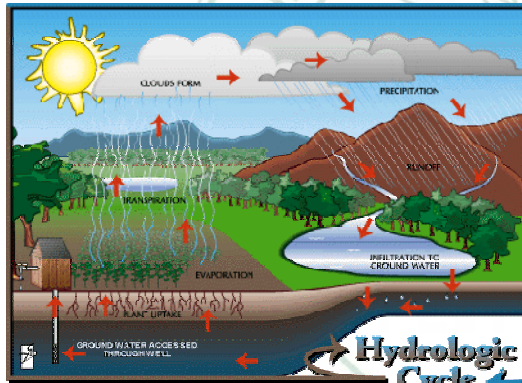
- ① Policy Overview for new Coordinators, Agents, and all levels of MG Leadership
- ① Advanced Policy Training for those who've already taken Policy Overview

There will be a special training for Master Gardener Coordinators, Agents, and others who have an interest in Master Gardener leadership on June 19th. Those who are new to Master Gardener Leadership roles will take the Policy Overview. Be sure to bring your Master Gardener Coordinator Handbooks!

New this year will be an advanced Policy Training and Workshop for Master Gardener leaders who have already had the Policy Overview. For as much time as we have the topics may include:

- Requirements to be in compliance with risk management - documents, practices
- What's needed to be in compliance with EEO and maybe a subsequent discussion of attracting diversity
- How to fire a volunteer
- Handling money and fund raising
- What to do when MGs/program teams go astray
- Stewards - where do they fit in?

20th Master Gardener College



Wednesday –

- Leadership Development Training
- Advanced Master Gardener: Water Quality
- Water Quality Training will be available for credit for educators and advanced students.

Leadership Development training continues on Wednesday, and Yes, you can join this training without having attended the Tuesday sessions.

Personality and leadership styles as they relate to the management of volunteers will be part of the material discussed.

Advanced Master Gardener: Water Quality Training will begin at 9:00 on Wednesday. This training is available at an additional charge that includes the Handbook. Topics such as water quality, water quantity, nutrient management, landscaping and turf care best management practices for water quality and low impact development will be covered. This year the advanced training will be open to teachers and upper class students for credit. If you elect to take the Advanced Master Gardener Training you will have a set selection of classes throughout Master Gardener College, including training in Extension Programming. You will get to participate in the installation of a Rain Garden, and you will be expected to take your new-found knowledge back to your unit to help set up water quality programs. You should check with your agent before you elect to take this advanced training.

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Thursday –

- **Coordinators Update in the AM.**
- **Tours**
- **Help build a Rain Garden or a Healing Garden**
- **Welcome, Awards & Brag Night**

On Thursday there will be a Coordinators update. All coordinators are expected since this is the only time in a year when they can gather to give input and hear the latest in Extension news and policy changes. The Advanced Master Gardeners will continue their training in the morning, but they will construct a rain garden in the afternoon. Any Master Gardener attending College will be welcome at this service learning event.

Another new offering this year will be construction of a healing garden. Diane Relf and others will help the participants understand the principles of landscaping for healing while a healing garden is constructed.

We will again offer tours of local gardens. Book early; this one always “sells out.” In fact if you have been on this tour recently please consider one of our many other choices so that someone else can get a chance.

There will be tours of the Hort Gardens, greenhouses where you can get ideas to take home to your area and various laboratories to learn what happens to that sample you send up to Tech.

In the evening we will have a gala welcoming event and distribution of the service awards. Check with your Agent or Coordinator to see if you are due for a service award, and the College discount that comes along with it; just one of the many reasons to turn in your hours. Wear your units colors proudly, and cheer for those in your unit who get a service award.

Consider entering your unit in the Brag Night Competition. The awards are as coveted and unique as Lord Stanley’s cup. Awards are given for the Brag night display that best exemplifies each of the SLM Objectives, and an overall grand Prize is also awarded. The Brag displays are limited to 6 foot table, and are judged according to the Search for Excellence criteria. For more information see the College Web Page at www.VMGA.NET

20th Master Gardener College



Which one is Kent Moutford?



Friday –

- ☉ **Captain John Smith's voyages on the Chesapeake.**
- ☉ **Your choice of 20 classes, walks and workshops**
- ☉ **The evening to explore Blacksburg**

General sessions include a presentation about Captain John Smith's explorations on the Chesapeake and his observations about water quality by award winning speaker and Bay Journal columnist Kent Moutford. Kent has been our guest at Master Gardener College before. His classy presentations and pictures are always captivating.

In the afternoon there will be workshops and classes dealing with topics as diverse as turf management for water quality and hypertufa. Or you may choose to take a walking tour of campus.

The evening is free to explore Blacksburg. There will be a free concert on the lawn downtown. There are plenty of watering holes in this college town, and dining establishments for every price and taste. Or you could stay in the dorm or visit the hort gardens, or whatever YOU feel like doing to recharge for Saturday.

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Saturday –

- ☉ Farmers' Market
- ☉ Master Gardener College Legend Holly Scoggins



- ☉ Again 20 workshops and classes
- ☉ Silent Auction,
- ☉ VMGA Annual Meeting
- ☉ Other Festivities????



Why not start off Saturday morning with an early trip to the Blacksburg Farmers' Market. You'll find plants there unavailable most other places; especially if Peter Heus of the Enchanters Garden is in town. You can snack on fresh berries and bakery before you rush back to see the morning speakers. Saturday morning Holly Scoggins of the Hort Department at Virginia Tech will regale you with one of her fascinating presentations. When Holly gives a workshop it is ALWAYS a sell-out. Her casual style and beautiful photographs support her fabulous presentations.

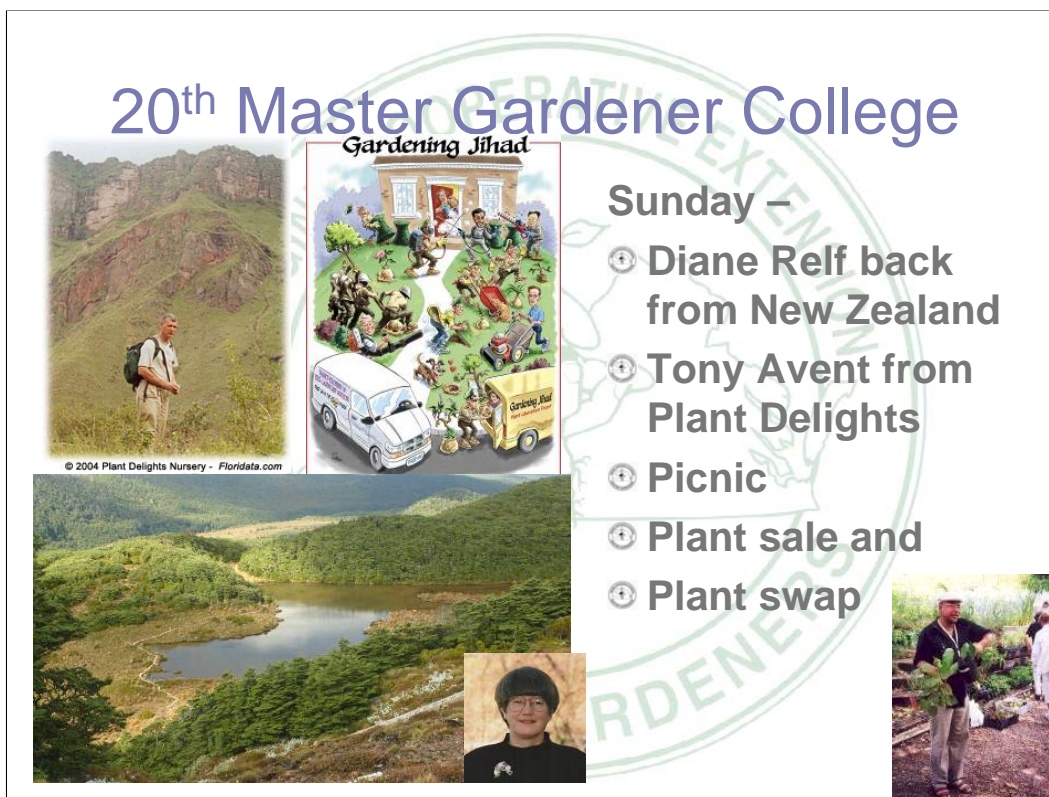
The afternoon is again packed with more than 20 choices of classes to educate and entertain you. There will be an afternoon-long workshop on Extension Programming which is required for those in the Advanced Master Gardener Training.

This year the Silent Auction will have the items on display ALL day long. Some great items are going to be available including several paintings. Many units pool their resources to donate a really desirable item for the Auction. If you or your unit would like to donate something please contact us at the Auction web page at VMGA.net or email Pat Reilly (pat@TheReillyGroup.net). As has been the case recently the Silent Auction proceeds go to the funding of the State Master Gardener Coordinator Endowment. Even if you cannot attend college and bid this year, consider making a donation to the Endowment at the VMGA website.

The Silent Auction winners will be announced after the VMGA Annual Meeting. Come to the meeting even if you are not a member. Maybe we can convince you to join. It is only \$12.00 per year, and includes many benefits, not the least of which is helping to shape the future of the Master Gardener program in Virginia.

After the official activities finish for the day, there will be an UNOFFICIAL activity - the do it yourself party. Ask someone who has already been to college to explain it to you. You will certainly not be disappointed.

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Sunday –

- ☉ Diane Relf back from New Zealand
- ☉ Tony Avent from Plant Delights
- ☉ Picnic
- ☉ Plant sale and
- ☉ Plant swap

This year's Sunday sessions will include two eye-catching presentations by two superb speakers. Diane Relf will entertain us with her own version of tales from the South Pacific, detailing some of the botanical wonders from New Zealand. After that Tony Avent, plantsman extraordinaire, and owner of Plant Delights nursery in Jupiter Level NC, will share with us some of his knowledge and insights. If you have ever seen his catalogue, you will have a hint of what is in store. If you haven't ever seen his catalogue, get one, you'll be glad you did.

After the presentations we will retire to the Horticulture Gardens (rain or shine) for a going away picnic. Either stop in and grab a bite, or linger in the garden with your new and old friends. While at the garden be sure to stop over at the green house and see what the Hort Club has for sale. They always have something interesting, and available for a good value.

The Plant Swap is a long-standing tradition of Master Gardener College. Bring plants with you to share with your fellow Master Gardeners. If you do bring some plants, then you can take some plants home with you that another Master Gardener has brought to swap. This is not the place to yank up some weeds from your garden. Bring well potted plants that have had a good drink before you left for College. When you arrive on campus, there will be someone at the welcome area to take your plants from you and care for them until the big event on Sunday afternoon.

20th Master Gardener College

- ④ How much does it cost?
- ④ Tuition for College is \$125
 - Advanced Master Gardener Training is extra
 - Some tours and labs have fees



Tuition has not gone up for 4 years now! \$125 gets you in to tours, social events, presentations by well-renowned speakers, your choice of more than 40 classes or workshops, and a chance to learn what Master Gardeners are doing all across the state. Some tours, classes, and laboratories have additional charges. All of the charges are detailed on the registration forms and the registration web site so there are no surprises – other than the surprises you hope to get from the latest in gardening!

20th Master Gardener College

📍 How much to stay each night?

Donaldson Brown	Residence Hall-west	Tax and fees
Single \$40	Single \$37	\$2.00 each +5% tax
Double \$28 each	Double \$26 each	\$2.00 each +5% tax

Most of us stay in the dormitory-style living of New Residence Hall-West. These rooms are air-conditioned and come equipped with the basics, but you'll need towels and an alarm clock. 3 or 4 sleeping rooms share a common room and a large bath. There are lounges with refrigerators and stoves on each floor, and these areas often become the site of impromptu gatherings. You may wish to bring a "well-stocked" cooler for one of these gatherings.

This year a VERY few rooms are also available in the Donaldson Brown Center. These rooms are more expensive, but feature private baths. This might be the choice for married Master Gardener couples.

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What about meals?

- ⦿ Breakfast - \$5.00
- ⦿ Lunch - \$7.50
- ⦿ Dinner - \$9.00 from the cafeteria.
- ⦿ You can get a meal plan or buy each meal

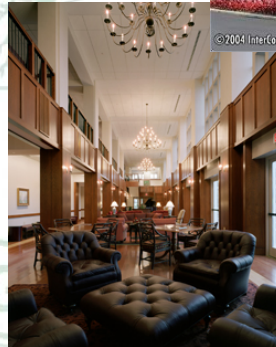


Most Master Gardeners partake of the generous meal plan. There are offerings for every type and size of appetite in the food-court style dining area. Included are Mediterranean, Italian, Chinese, Vegetarian (really) and of course good old American. You can eat a little or a lot from any and all of the food areas, and sit with your friends. If you stay off campus or come for just one day of College, you can also pay for meals individually at the door if you decide to join friends for a meal.

20th Master Gardener College

Can I stay off-campus?

- ① Holiday Inn
- ① The Inn and Conference Center at Virginia Tech
- ① Amerisuites
- ① And more in Christiansburg



There are many lodging choices just off the right end of campus for Master Gardener College. The three closest are The Inn and Conference Center at Virginia Tech, The Holiday Inn Blacksburg, and just across 460 from campus is an Amerisuites hotel. There are also many other choices in Christiansburg, but they price comes with the inconvenience of driving almost 5 minutes to get to campus!

20th Master Gardener College



We want you to come!

- ④ Many local associations have scholarships.
- ④ Some local governments help with support or transportation.
- ④ VMGA has a few scholarships available – see details @ www.vmga.net
- ④ Ask your unit coordinator to nominate you for one

This promises to be the biggest Master Gardener College ever. We really want you to try to come. Many local units are sponsoring scholarships to bring some of their members. Some counties allow their Master Gardeners to drive a county vehicle to save costs – it couldn't hurt to ask. VMGA is giving scholarships again this year. You must be nominated by your Unit Coordinator or Agent, so ask! There are details about the VMGA scholarships on the web site www.vmga.net. If all else fails call Dave Close up at his home and ask to room with Biscuit.

20th Master Gardener College

This is the 20th Anniversary of Master Gardener College.

We have pulled out all the stops.

Make plans to attend now.

Registration details will be available soon.

