



It's time to make your plans for the 21st Master Gardener College. Please join us at Virginia Tech. If you've been before, this one will be better than ever before. If you haven't been before, its time to go! It isn't going to get any closer to home, or any cheaper, and it has never ever been better!



Land Care

The 21st Master Gardener
College

June 16-22, 2008

Our theme this year is Land Care. We will have something to interest every Master Gardener. Almost everything having to do with gardening also has to do with Land Care. Let's learn about all the connections together. More and more folks are moving to property like they've never seen before, and Master Gardeners always get the call about the challenges they encounter. Join us to learn how to help our clients, and learn a little bit for ourselves.

21st Master Gardener College

June 16-22, 2007

This year there are many new opportunities

Including:

Advanced Master Gardener Training: Land Care

Leadership Training for MG Leaders

New Field Trips,

Fabulous Speakers

And more!

This year, Master Gardener College will be held Tuesday June 16th through Sunday June 22th. It is our 21st 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. Later on you will see the Exciting list of speakers. We have never had a line-up like this before.

21st Master Gardener College

Tuesday afternoon – Two Tracks

🕒 **Policy Overview for new Coordinators, Agents, and all levels of MG Leadership**

🕒 **Advanced Policy/Leadership 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 17th. 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. Items such as:

- 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?



21st Master Gardener College

Thinking in Terms of ZONES



Wednesday – Thursday
and throughout
College

📍 **Advanced Master
Gardener: Land Care**

📍 **Learn more at:**

www.AdvancedMasterGardener.org



LAND CARE
STEWARDS

Larry Korbnak

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: Land Care will begin at 9:00 on Wednesday. This training is available at an additional charge that includes the Handbook. 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 be expected to take your new-found knowledge back to your unit to help set up Land Care and FireWise programs. You should check with your agent before you elect to take this advanced training.

21st Master Gardener College

Thursday –

- ☑ Coordinators Update in the AM.
- ☑ Unit Coordinators are expected. This is your only chance to catch up on new and useful program information.



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 learn the latest in Extension News and Policy Changes. The Advanced Master gardeners will continue their training in the morning, but they will have a special field trip in the afternoon.



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.

The Advanced Master Gardeners will visit a Firewise community and learn about fuel reduction and zone protection.

Some of you may elect to attend a flower arranging class. Not only will you learn the basics of flower arranging, but you will get to create a masterpiece that you can take home with you.

A tour of the turf plots will give those grass lovers a chance to twiddle their toes in some of the best (and worst) turf plots in the mid-Atlantic. If you go to Kentland Farms with Ron Morse, you can see no-till farming and gardening and see the latest research into this exciting new gardening technique.

There are tours of the insect lab, the soil lab and the pathology lab so you can see where those samples you “send up to ‘Tech” actually go. If you are coming to College for the first time, this is a must!

21st Master Gardener College

- ④ Thursday is Brag Night
- ④ Search for Excellence Criteria available at: VMGA.net check the College Page
- ④ Winners considered for submission for Regional and National Competitions



Search for Excellence Criteria will be used to determine a winning display that describes a program or project in each of the SLM Objectives. Beautiful presentations are well-received, but this is no beauty pageant. 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 SLMs, 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. There you can find the judging criteria, and directions for you to enter. **YOU MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS** to have a table for your presentation.



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.

21st Master Gardener College

Friday –



• Beautiful Gardens Report – Fred Duis.

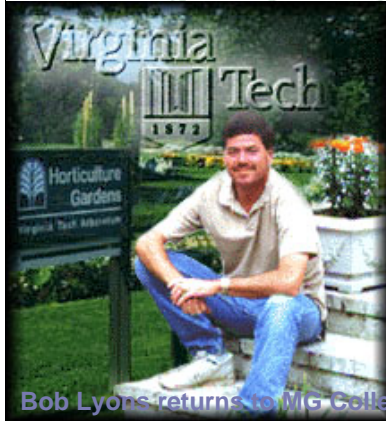


• Bob Lyons – Director of Graduate Studies at Longwood Gardens



• Contributor to Horticipia

• and MG Favorite



Bob Lyons returns to MG College! ©2004 Horticipia, Inc.



©2004 Horticipia



©2008 Horticipia, Inc.

On Friday Morning we will have a report from Fred Duis about the Beautiful Gardens project. Master Gardeners around the state participate in the trials for this program which hopes to identify plants ideally suited for Virginia gardeners and for production by Virginia Growers.

Back by popular demand is Bob Lyons. He used to be at Tech before he went to JC Raulston Arboretum in NC, and then onto become chairman of graduate studies at Longwood Gardens. His photographs adorn a good many of the Plant Tags you've ever seen and he is one of the authors of the Horticipia CD. His talks are always beautiful, informative, and entertaining.

21st Master Gardener College

Friday PM

- Your choice of 20 classes, walks and workshops
- The evening to explore Blacksburg



In the afternoon there will be, workshops and classes, dealing with topics as diverse as turf management for water quality and hypertufa. The evening is free to explore Blacksburg. There will probably 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.



Get up a little early on Saturday and visit the Farmer's Market in Blacksburg. There is fresh fruit, great baked goods, and if you are lucky, Peter Hues AKA the Enchanter's Garden will be there with plants that Master Gardeners cannot do without. Truly.

Mike Raupp is a frequent guest on national and local TV programs – especially when the periodic cicadas are out, but also whenever they want to show that bugs can be fun AND tasty! He has spoken at College before, and is as dynamic a speaker as you can probably stand.

21st Master Gardener College

Saturday –
Rick Darke
**LANDSCAPE ETHICS,
PHOTOGRAPHY, AND
CONTEXTUAL DESIGN**

- 📀 Natural Gardener
- 📀 Author of:
- 📀 more than 7 Books
- 📀 Nearly 50 Magazine Articles
- 📀 CD-Rom
- 📀 2 time winner of the AHS Book Award

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
grasses
SCAPES
Text and photographs by rick darke

GARDEN FAVORITES
The most beautiful plants, flowers, and trees

IN HARMONY WITH NATURE
How to create a garden that works with nature

The American Woodland Garden
Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest
Text and photographs by Rick Darke

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOOK AWARD

Rick Darke takes photos, authors books and magazines, and is one spectacular gardener. He is a frequent speaker at regional and national Master Gardener meetings. He will have some of his books available for purchase and he will sign them after his talk.

21st Master Gardener College

Saturday –

- 🕒 **Holly Scoggins**
- 🕒 **VT Associate Professor - Floriculture**
- 🕒 **Director, Hahn Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech**
- 🕒 **Master Gardener College Legend**
- 🕒 **Again 20 workshops and classes in the afternoon**



Holly Scoggins is Master Gardener College Rock Star. Her concurrent session appearances have to be carefully scheduled so that there are enough seats for her talk and enough Master Gardeners to attend some other talks – THAT GOOD. She takes spectacular photos, and is as up to date on that new plant the YOU NOW MUST HAVE as any speaker anywhere. Take notes – you will have to have those plants.

21st Master Gardener College

- ④ In the afternoon choose from more than 20 sessions including:
- ④ Brambles/Cane Fruits
- ④ Dealing with Kids
- ④ Hands on Tree Pruning
- ④ Hobby Greenhouses
- ④ 2-Part Insect ID with the inimitable Peter Warren
- ④ Land Care Steward/ Extension Programming
- ④ Turf talks – 2 of them!
- ④ Road side natives
- ④ Birds and
MUCH MUCH MORE!

21st Master Gardener College

Saturday – Evening

- ⊕ **Silent Auction,**
- ⊕ **VMGA Annual Meeting**
- ⊕ **Other Festivities?????**



The afternoon is packed with more than 20 choices of classes to inform you. There will be a workshop on Extension Programming which is required for those in the Advanced Master Gardener Training, but is open and informative to any who want to take it.

Silent Auction items will be displayed ALL day. Many great items are going to be available including plants and gardening accessories. If you or your unit would like to donate something please contact us at the auction web page at VMGA.net. The Silent Auction proceeds go to the funding of the State Master Gardener Coordinator Endowment. We hope you will come to college and bid philanthropically at the auction, but we also need some items to auction. Some units put together their resources and bring spectacular items on which to bid, others put together baskets of their best homemade items. There is more information about the auction at www.vmga.net on the college pages, including who to contact to make a donation. If you cannot attend college and bid this year, consider making a donation to the Endowment at the VMGA website.

Although the Auction goes on all day, the bidding gets furious during the wine tasting. A Virginia Winery usually donates some good wines. We provide some snacks. You provide the entertainment. Remember to bid early and often.

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. The meeting is usually short and sweet, but very informative. Even if you are not a member of VMGA consider attending.

After the official activities finish for the day, there will be some UNOFFICIAL activities. Ask someone who has already been to college to explain them to you. You will certainly not be disappointed.

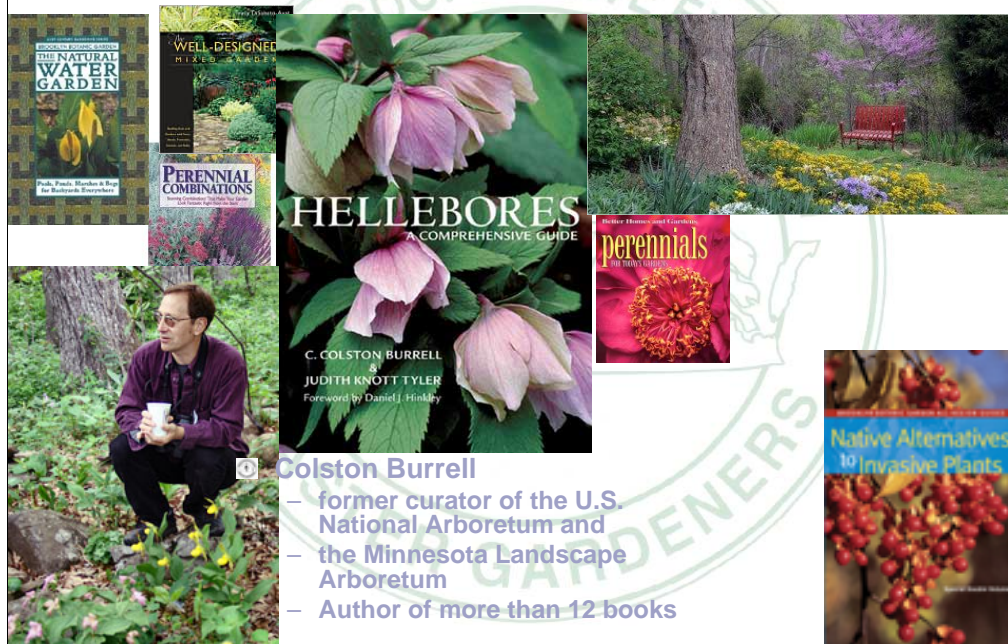
21st Master Gardener College

Sunday – Rick Fell of the
Entomology Department
Will tell us about Bees!



This year's Sunday sessions will include two eye-catching presentations by two superb speakers. Rick Fell is the "BEE MAN" at Virginia Tech. He has been researching colony decline, those pesky mites and much more.

21st Master Gardener College



HELLEBORES
A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE
C. COLSTON BURRELL
&
JUDITH KNOTT TYLER
Foreword by Daniel J. Hinckley

Colston Burrell

- former curator of the U.S. National Arboretum and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
- Author of more than 12 books

Colston Burrell is the former curator of the National Arboretum, and has been with us at MG College before. He is an expert at finding native plants that are landscape equivalents for more popular horticultural selections. He lives outside of Charlottesville, and so the gardening knowledge that he shares is particularly well suited for us.

21st Master Gardener College

- ☉ Also On Sunday
- ☉ Picnic
- ☉ Plant sale and
- ☉ Plant swap



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.

21st Master Gardener College

- ① How much does it cost?
- ① Tuition for College is \$125
 - Advanced Master Gardener Training is extra
 - Some tours and labs have fees



The \$125 registration fee has not increased for 4 years and covers on-campus tours, keynote presentations by renowned speakers, your choice of more than 40 concurrent classes or workshops, social events and a chance to learn what Master Gardeners are doing all across the state. Some tours and classes have additional charges to pay for transportation and materials. All costs are listed on the registration and housing forms and links to the registration web site (www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/mgcollege) so there are no surprises.

- other than the surprises you hope to get from the latest in gardening.

21st Master Gardener College

📍 How much to stay each night:

GLC/ 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 four 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.

If you have questions about what it is like at College, look at the vmga.net college pages. Some MGs have prepared some frequently asked questions and guidance to take the mystery out of the experience. Of course you could always call David Close the State Master Gardener Coordinator at home and ask these questions. That number is (540)

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.

21st Master Gardener College

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. You get a card to swipe at the dining hall that entitles you to eat more than you really should. There are offerings for every type 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.

21st Master Gardener College

Can I stay off-campus:

- ① Holiday Inn
- ① Hawthorne Suites
- 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 the price comes with the inconvenience of driving almost 5 minutes to get to campus!

21st Master Gardener College



We want you to come!

- ⦿ Many local associations have scholarships.
- ⦿ Some local governments help with support or transportation.



VMGA has a few scholarships available – see details @ www.vmga.net

- ⦿ 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 program on the web site www.vmga.net. If all else fails call Dave Close up at his home and ask to room with Biscuit.

June 17-22, 2008
21st Annual
Master Gardener College

See you there!

