



# The VMGA Report

A Voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

vmga.net

November/December 2018

Volume 24, Number 3

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## VMGA Officers

President-  
Wanda Gerard, Suffolk

Vice President-  
Leslie Paulson, Prince  
William

Secretary-  
Nelda Purcell, Franklin

Treasurer-  
Georgianna Hall,  
Loudon

## VMGA

- Membership has its advantages:
- Unit Support
  - Scholarships
  - Newsletter
  - Advanced Training
  - Discount event fees
  - Membership Directory
  - Statewide Networking

## Reflect on the past, challenge the future...

Wanda Gerard, Suffolk, President

This year is marching along at a quick pace and if you are like me, you are thinking ahead to the busy holiday season and then the New Year too. Before we go further, I'd like to thank everyone who made the 2018 Educational Event a success (the planners, the helpers, the attendees.) Please consider helping with this committee so that events can be planned and you can get some awesome training as one of the benefits of being a VMGA member. If you haven't already, mark your calendar to visit the Hampton Roads area next September for our annual Master Gardener College. Maybe Santa will hear if you ask him to give you the cash so you can attend the 2019 International Master Gardener Conference in Valley Forge, PA in June.

Now, make yourself a cup of tea or coffee, grab a tablet and a pen and along with me, let's do some reflecting on 2018, and then, make a few goals for 2019. Since you are a gardener, under the 'my garden' category, what is the one new plant (or piece of garden art?!) you introduced that really made a serious difference in the overall scheme of things? Then, list one plant that just didn't live up to your expectations. For a goal, do you already have a specific plant in mind to acquire next year, or do you have plans to make some simple or complex changes within the gardens? Next will be your 'mg volunteer' category. What is the highlight of a project that you worked on or with? Do you have any ideas for improving or sharing it with others? Have you chosen a goal for 2019? Perhaps you want to recruit a few more master gardeners to help work on your favorite project, or do you have something entirely new as a goal? Why not challenge yourself to volunteer additional hours so that you can reach that next milestone? And, add those other categories as they apply to your life..... My answers to these questions read like this: baptisia(+), castor bean(-), Ninebark, fountain, meadow, decking, trellis, garden parties and more! The highlight of my year continues on into my goal for next year – taking the position of president of VMGA and giving it as much as I can in the time that my schedule allows. Perhaps your piece of paper has a few things written on it, or if like mine, it's full and you've turned the page. I challenge you as much as I challenge myself to set aside at least a few minutes each week to do some reflecting on the current year, and then what is ahead. Study your garden even though the flowers are dormant. Watch nature. Remember old and new friends. Breathe deep and have a great holiday season.

Wanda



## Bi-monthly VMGA Meeting

Saturday, December 8, 2018 10:00am

Hosted by Suffolk MGs at the **Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center** (TAREC) located at 6321 Holland Road, Suffolk, VA 23437.

Breakfast snacks and beverages will be available. A boxed lunch from Jimmy Johns is being offered for \$10.00. This includes your choice of sandwich, choice of bread, choice of side salad, bag of chips, cookie, pickle spear and a bottle of water. See page 6 for more details.

**RSVP by Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> to Wanda Gerard at [vagardengurl@aol.com](mailto:vagardengurl@aol.com), or [vagardengurl1@gmail.com](mailto:vagardengurl1@gmail.com).**

Send lunch choice and payment to Wanda Gerard, 4172 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434.

**FROM THE EDITOR**  
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 spread involvement around the state, getting more involved.

Please send to:

Peggy Fox,  
VMGA Newsletter Editor  
Newport News unit  
[peggyfox@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyfox@hotmail.com)

Deadline for Jan/Feb issue:  
December 22, 2018

## In the news:

One of our very own was featured in the **Virginia Pilot July 2018**.

Wanda Gerard tells her story of moving forward locally and at the state level in her role as a Virginia Master Gardener volunteer.

Has your unit or members of your unit been featured in your local newspaper? Let us know! Send links to: [peggyfox@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyfox@hotmail.com)

## From VCE Facebook page

Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program

Sharing Knowledge, Empowering Communities

Like Following Share

Learn More Send Message

Virginia Master Gardeners are volunteer educators who work within their communities to encourage and...

See More

Community See All

Invite your friends to like this Page

3,450 people like this

3,561 people follow this

David D. Close likes this or has checked in

FOX3DC.COM Christmas-tree infesting bug found in Virginia: Here's what to look for

Another educational resource for Spotted Lantern Fly: **The IPM Toolbox**

**MASTER  
GARDENER  
PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND**

It's easy to make your end of year donation online just click [here](#). Or [click here](#) to make your donation by mail.

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## The Tick-Lyme-Barberry Connection

Invasive barberry can increase deer tick populations AND increase how many of those ticks carry Lyme disease as well! Learn more about managing barberry:

**University of Maryland Extension, Home and Garden Information Center**

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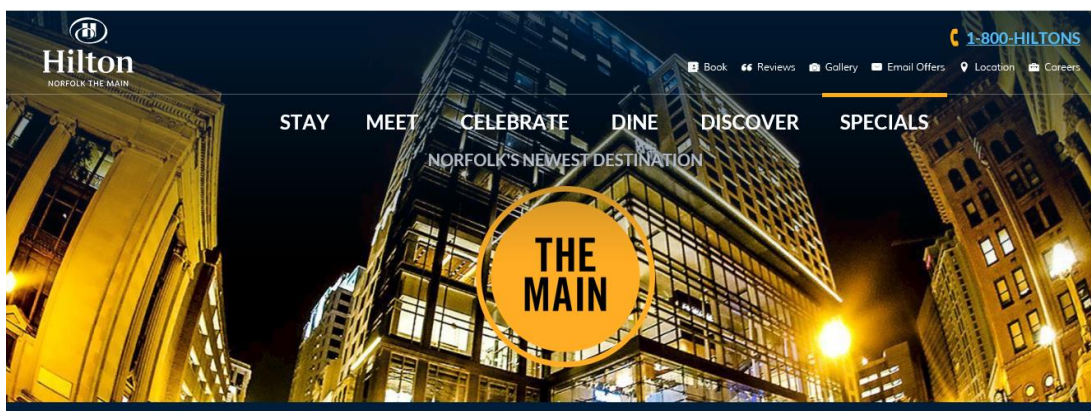
## SAVE THE DATE!

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Master Gardener College

Advanced Training: Water Stewards

Sept 17-22, 2019

Hilton Norfolk The Main



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Make plans to attend

### **2019 International Master Gardener Conference**

June 17-21 in Valley Forge, PA.

*Early Registration Opens: Late November 2018*

Special learning opportunities from:



- Longwood Gardens
  - Mt. Cuba Center
  - Rodale Institute
  - Winterthur
  - Morris Arboretum
  - Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SEAREC)
  - Barnes Arboretum
  - The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College
-

**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.

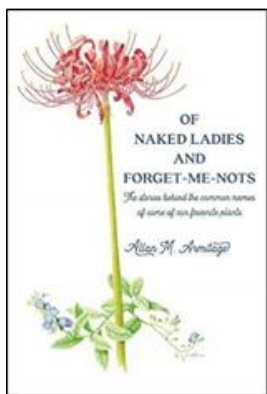
## THE GRAINETHUMB

### SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF PLANT NAMES George Graine, Fairfax County Master Gardeners

*Half the interest of a garden is in the constant exercise of the imagination.*

---Mrs. C. W. Earle

Have you ever thought that maybe, just maybe we take gardening "rules" too seriously. Surely you have heard many words that are currently in vogue and of concern to gardeners such as "save the bay," "global warming," "sustainability," "biodiversity" and "ecological principles." Can we lighten up and lay aside these heavy admonitions for a little while? Take a few steps back and enjoy a lighter moment with a master story teller who does not get caught up with the plant du jour or why it is so important to have a soil test.



About 16 years ago Linda C. Copeland and Allan M. Armitage (Dr. A for short) teamed up and wrote *Legends in the Garden: Who in the World is Nellie Stevens?* Dr. A, one of the foremost horticultural giants, self-published a new book called ***Of Naked Ladies and Forget-Me-Nots: The Stories Behind the Common Names of Some of Our Favorite Plants*** (2017). This book is a unique treat as he tells us about interesting and mostly unknown stories about plants packed into 219 pages. In addition, color photos enhance the identity of these plants. Furthermore, most of the plants discussed include one or more references. The

Table of Contents lists almost 100 plants, all with interesting headings and in what appears to be a random order. Even though Dr. A insists on discussing each plant using its common name, the botanical Latin name is included in the text for each plant. If you are searching to see if a particular plant is included in the book, you are in luck. The last section of the book includes two lists. The first is an alphabetical "Index of Common Names" and the second list is an "Index of Botanical Names and Their Common Names" also in alphabetical order. The plant "titles" in the Table of Contents is a laffer and you will quickly realize the humor and history of each plant as you read each story. As an example, here are a few title samples: "Butter and Eggs Anyone?" "Preaching With Jack," "Can a Plant Really Be Impatient" and "Love in a Puff." How can anyone pass on a book with such intriguing plant titles? Trust me, this book is not just a real hoot but a must read as well. Although the thoughts are humorous and historical, each story is chock full of limited yet important horticultural information.

To further sort out plant name confusion, here is an example of "What in the World is a Wort?" According to Dr. A, "Many plants seem to carry this designation..." Wort's have something to do "with parts or ailments of the body." This is based on Peracelsus's doctrine as noted in the reference. Several plants illustrated in this section and based on body parts include Lungwort (Pulmonaria), Liverwort (Hepatica), Spleenwort (Asplenium) and Toothwort (Cardamine). Did any of these plants heal parts of the body? Probably not;

## Resources

Find out more here:

**VMGA.NET**

**VCE MG Program--  
Facebook**

**VCE MG Program--  
YouTube**

**VCE MG Program--  
Blog**

**VCE—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**

however, "The Doctrine of Signatures and the common names that resulted are a part of our gardening history." St. John's wort is covered in some detail in another section because this plant is not associated with The Doctrine of Signatures.

Perhaps one might consider Dr. A as a candidate for the local comedy club as his ability to tell a story is way beyond chuckles and guffaws. All of the stories reveal the mystery about each plant based on historical research. Not to be slighted, clues are included on how to encourage your plant to survive and thrive. After all, take note that Dr. A is a plantsman of the first order. *Of Naked Ladies* is a book for everyone and not just for those with a green thumb. His book goes beyond a garden primer and indeed is a valuable resource for anyone who grows and wants to learn more about what they are growing. This book will inspire you and he does it in such a way so that those with black thumbs will almost automatically see them turn green(ish). To all who venture beyond this article, we should be grateful to have Dr. A contributing his enthusiasm about plants in such a charming and entertaining manner. To quote the good doctor, "Gardening should be fun!" Who is Dr. A? He is definitely not a mystery to those in the green industry. Read the last page of his book as it contains a short autobiography. One can only hope that Dr. A does not wait another 16 years before he delves into the enigma of how other plants got their name.

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### Calendar 2018-2019

**Dec 6**

**Waynesboro Tree Workshop**

**Dec 8**

**VMGA Bimonthly Meeting**

Hosted by [Suffolk Master Gardeners](#)

Suffolk will be having their illumination and/or a holiday parade on the evening of Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. For additional information about Suffolk, please visit the Suffolk tourism website: <http://www.visitsuffolkva.com/>

**2019**

**Jan 15-17**

**Mid Atlantic Horticulture Short Course**

Virginia Beach

**Feb 2**

**Spring to Green: Gardening for All Ages**

Danville Master Gardeners

**Feb 13-15**

**Winter Symposium and CVNLA Short Course**

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

**Feb 16**

**Green Spring EcoSavvy Symposium**

Balancing Form and Function in the Garden

**April 26-28 Colonial Williamsburg 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garden Symposium**

**April 27-May 4**

**Historic Garden Week**

**April 30**

**Horticultural Horizons-Chesterfield MGs**

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

**June 17-21**

**IMGC**

Valley Forge, PA

**Sept 19-22**

**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Virginia Master Gardener College**

Norfolk, VA

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## LUNCH RESERVATION

Suffolk has a new Jimmy Johns eatery that we are going to use for our lunches. The cost for the boxed lunch is \$10.00. This includes your choice of sandwich, choice of bread, choice of side salad, bag of chips, cookie, pickle spear and a bottle of water. Please note, the sandwiches come with the ingredients shown. No substitutions are allowed.

**Sandwich choices are:**

- Roast Beef (w/lettuce, tomato & mayo)
- Turkey Breast (w/lettuce, tomato & mayo)
- Italian (salami, capicola, provolone, onion, lettuce, tomato, oil/vinegar & basil/oregano)
- JJ BLT (w/lettuce, tomato & mayo)
- Ham & Provolone (w/lettuce, tomato & mayo)
- Tuna Salad (w/cucumber, lettuce, & tomato)
- Veggie (provolone, avocado, cucumber, lettuce, tomato & mayo)

**Bread choices are:**

- 8" French bread (roll)
- 8-9" Grain wheat (roll)
- 9 Grain hand-sliced wheat (bread)
- Un-wich lettuce wrap

**Side salad choices are:** macaroni salad, potato salad, 3 bean salad or cole slaw

Send your lunch reservation and (\$10.00) payment to Wanda Gerard, 4172 Godwin Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434. **Deadline is Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Please RSVP so we have enough seating arranged. If you have questions, contact Wanda Gerard at [vagardengurl@aol.com](mailto:vagardengurl@aol.com), or [vagardengurl1@gmail.com](mailto:vagardengurl1@gmail.com).

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandwich Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Bread Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Side Salad Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

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