



REPORT

Vol. 16, No. 3

<http://www.vmga.net>

May/June 2009

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Upcoming Meetings

- (Short) Bi-Monthly Board Meeting,
5 PM, 19 June, MGC, Torgerson Hall
- Annual VMGA Meeting, 7 PM, 20 June,
MGC, Torgerson Hall

President's Message

Betty Villers, VMGA President

Thank goodness Spring has finally arrived. The month of May will keep us all busy in our gardens, weeding, planting our new purchases, potting for plant sales, moving plants, and planting our vegetable gardens.

In June I expect to see you at MG College, June 16-21. Advanced Master Gardener Training in Tree Stewardship will be offered earlier in the week prior to the beginning of MG College. Check out the VMGA website for all the details and links to on-campus and off-campus housing registration and conference registration. \$100 scholarships for MG College are available through nomination by your Extension Agent or Unit Coordinator.

In this issue, check out the articles from two Virginia MGs who attended the March International MG Conference in Las Vegas. The James City County/Williamsburg MG unit placed third in the Youth category for the International Search for Excellence Awards for their Environmental Education Project. Congratulations!

See you at MG College. This year's theme for Saturday night is "Go Green".
- Betty

WARNING! IF YOU ARE CONTENT WITH YOUR VOLUNTEER WORK DON'T READ THIS!

By Barbara C. Daniels, Prince George MG

Of twenty four seminars offered at the IMGC2009, the schedule allowed for each MG to attend six. All nine hundred sixty seven of us were privileged to hear Jeff Lowenfels' keynote lecture on "The Soil Food Web". Additionally, health assessments, dance, Tai Chi, and Grow Your Strength sessions were held with a special emphasis on exercise to avoid physical injuries each day.

As a new MG I expected to hear about the new plant varieties and kudos for the work we do. I could not have been more wrong. Being surrounded by so many states and Canada was a powerful, fun and inspiring experience. Hearing about all the projects they do helping underprivileged children learn gardening for food and gain a sense of pride in something they have grown themselves, the research projects and all the other things that truly make a difference in our

(continued on page 8)

UPCOMING EVENTS

18-21 June, MG College, VT,
www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/mgcollege

5 May - 2 June, Green Thumb Gardening Series, Every Tuesday, 7 PM,
www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org

13, 23 May, "Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession", Monticello Jefferson's Library, 4 PM,
www.monticello.org

16 May, "Edible Plants in the Ornamental Garden", Monticello's Vegetable Garden, 9:30 AM,
www.monticello.org

20 May, "Easy Care Roses", Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion, VT, 12 PM,
www.hort.vt.edu/hhg

21 May, Water Quality Improvement with Rain Gardens, Blandy State Arboretum, 10 AM,
www.virginia.edu/blandy

23 May, Richmond Rose Society Display, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 10 AM,
www.lewisginter.org/events

30 May, "Native Orchids of Virginia", Monticello's Jordan Classroom, 9:30 AM,
www.monticello.org

20 June, Richmond Area Daylily Show and Sale, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 9 AM,
www.lewisginter.org/events

25 June, "Containers for the Collector", Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion, VT, 6 PM,
www.hort.vt.edu/hhg

Send VMGA calendar inputs to Kathryn Debnar, k2garden@cox.net.



International MG Conference

By Marilyn J. Greene, Green Springs MGV

Master Gardeners in Las Vegas. Now there's an oxymoron; or so it seemed.

But beyond the glitz and gaming, generally clumped in the city's 'Strip,' was a world of awe-inspiring natural beauty and a spirit of stewardship for the Southwest's unique environment.

Master Gardeners, 902 in all, came from all over the United States, from Canada and even from Costa Rica and Armenia for the March 22-26 conference.

Our hosts were 108 Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada, who organized and coordinated a complex system of reservations, tours, meals, speakers, workshops, and exhibits. They did this largely without assistance from any governmental or official agency. They exemplified how committed individuals can step forward and make things happen!

Conference themes echoed this sense of citizen activism and altruism. Eco-gardening, water-wise horticulture, chemical-free pest control, composting, conservative irrigation, and sharing garden bounty with the needy were among the topics.

Alaskan Jeff Lowenfels, who has written gardening columns in the Anchorage Daily News for more than 25 years, delivered a one-two punch in two separate, disparate presentations.

The first, a scholarly presentation on organic gardening, explored the secrets of the soil food web. Supplies of Lowenfels' latest book, "Teaming With Microbes," quickly ran out at the convention.

Jeff's second talk was a testimonial to his personal walk with humility: How remorse and shame for turning his back on a homeless man led him to found a program called Plant a Row for the Hungry. He urged Master Gardeners to join with and promote this nationwide program in their respective locales.

Other speakers talked about community gardens, about how to use "green" building concepts, transform lawns into meadows, use natural weapons on bugs and plant diseases, and use native plants in the home landscape.

Sydney Everhart, a very plucky young tree-canopy scientist, described her adventures high off the ground in search of myxomycetes – that fungus-like slime mold the uneducated might mistake for dog vomit – which has great potential in the field of disease-fighting science.

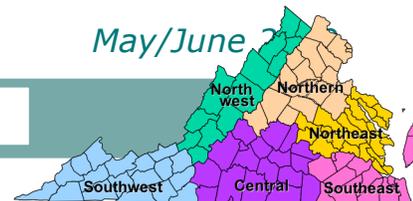
But the conference was not all about sitting indoors listening to speakers. Daily 6 a.m. tours through the amazing gardens of the Bellagio and other swanky Las Vegas hotels were paired with afternoon tours of the Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, a cactus garden, the famous Spring Mountain Ranch, Death Valley, and Red Rock Canyon.

Indoors at the conference center, vendors exhibited garden tools, hats, gloves, outdoor art, fertilizer and pest control chemicals, worm farms, plants, seeds, and irrigation systems.

If a Master Gardener couldn't learn something at this conference, it could only be because the lure of the slot machine overcame all good sense!

May News From Across the State

The full report of the units can be found at <http://www.vmga.net>.



Northeast



Chesterfield, Lynne Foote

<http://www.chesterfield.gov/extension>

The Chesterfield MGs continue to provide the Grass Roots Program and now have expanded the Gardening for New Residence Program to include all county residents. The tight economy has impacted these programs.

Chesterfield MGs sponsored, on April 21, Horticultural Horizons at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The theme was Conserving the Commonwealth: Keeping Virginia Green.

The Chesterfield MGs partnered with Hanover, hosting a joint plant clinic at the Great Big Greenhouse.

Vegetable gardening has been a popular seminar this year. Four rain barrel workshops were again offered with over 100 rain barrels made by the public.

Square foot gardens and water wise gardens were built and installed outside the extension office for educational purposes. Also rain barrels were installed for demonstration purposes.

James City Co/Williamsburg, Jim and Nelda Pressly

<http://www.jccwmg.org>

Therapeutic Gardening in the James City County Williamsburg Unit consists of several sets of structured horticultural activities to improve physical and mental health, expand recreational options and enhance health and well-being. The program has been presented to many at local retirement and nursing homes, including assisted-living residents and those with memory-impaired residents. In 2009, the program was extended to include Eastern State Hospital where volunteers work with moderately retarded and emotionally handicapped adults. At a Respite Care Center, volunteers conduct a session once a month year-round with severely physically and emotionally handicapped adults. A regional association has recognized our Association for the excellence of its therapeutic gardening program.

Northeast



Hanover, Christy Brennan

<http://www.hanovermastergardeners.org>

The first two sessions of the 2009 Home Gardening Series have been a success. These Saturday seminars are tailored for home owners and home owner associations. They have been well received.

Hanover just completed our first local education event: Growing Shitake Mushrooms. The trip and program were well organized.

The Spring Plant Sale was a success and rain barrels are still a huge interest item. We continue to have a waiting list. Members of the Board and committee chairs are in the process of writing SOP's for each job description.

33 Interns graduate May 8.

Northern Neck, Ted Munns

<http://www.nnmg.org>

The annual Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar was wildly successful. On March 21, Dr. Andy Hankins keynoted the event entitled "Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local: Food for Thought". Participants included Sybil Mays on sustainable gardening, NNMGs displays of vermiculture and oyster gardening, and a host of local vendors. This is the NNMGs major fund raising effort for the year. Over 200 interested people attended it.

A generous donation of spring bulbs from Brent & Becky's allowed the NNMG to enhance the newly erected "Welcome to Northumberland" signage at key entry points on major roads. Extra bulbs were used to spruce up the county's 4H and Extension Office grounds.

The NNMG is planning a large demonstration vegetable garden at the new Northern Neck Farm Museum using the help of youngsters from 4-H and the high school. This teaching garden will utilize rain barrels and teach proper organic and IPM principles.

May News From Across the State (continued)

Northeast

**Gloucester, Bonnie Bernard**

<http://www.gloucesterva.info/ext/mastergardener/home.htm>

The 23rd Daffodil Festival has passed and we have put our booth away until next year. Our booth theme this year was "Gloucester Master Gardeners Going Green" and featured worm bins, rain barrels and other eco saving landscaping tips. We were able to make over 600 contacts throughout the weekend. The Gloucester Master Gardeners served as the Grand Marshals of the Festival Parade!

Newport News, Anita Smith

<http://www.nnmastergardeners.org>

Master Gardeners working with the Boys and Girls Club are expanding their program to include several new raised beds that were constructed and will be cultivated this summer.

April classes at the Newport News Juvenile Detention Center concentrated on plant propagation so the students could grow plants for sale. The Unit's plant sale held at the end of April is the fund raiser for the scholarship we award annually to a Horticulture Major at Christopher Newport University

The second annual Newport News Master Gardener "Go Green - \$ave Green" Symposium is taking place on September 26, 2009 at the Brittingham Midtown Community Center. We are very excited about the larger venue allowing us to have more speaker sessions, more exhibitors and more participants.

This month the Newport News Unit lost one of its most talented members: Yvonne Tung. She will be greatly missed.

Northern

**Albemarle/Charlottesville Piedmont, Joyce Grunewald**

<http://www.piedmontmastergardeners.org>

Our annual "Spring Gardening Lecture" covered topics such as *The Kitchen Garden* with Mark Ragland, *Bulbs, The Final Touch* with Cathy Clary, *Good Gardening Bones* with Ian Robertson and *Principles of Green Garden Design* with Virginia Rockwell.

In 2006, PMG and Monticello Associates partnered to develop a demonstration garden in downtown Charlottesville. The garden promotes educating the public on native and non-native plants in shady and sunny areas, plant care, composting, mulching and cultivation tips. Dorothy Tompkins, Jacki Vawter, Rosemary Connelly and Kristen Rembold are the backbone of this successful project. The garden is frequently the backdrop for a local TV station's community announcements.

Arlington/Alexandria, Joe Kelly

<http://www.mgnv.org>

We had an educational/informational presentation at Alexandria's Earth Day 2009 celebration April 25.

Our 3 farmer's market clinics will begin operation May 2 and continue each Saturday through fall.

We had a very informative and practical April continuing education event on "Gardening Without Pain."

We have 4 sessions of public education events for families at local libraries in April and May on "Grow Your Own Pizza" with emphasis on things such as nutrition, vegetable gardening and container gardening.

International Search for Excellence Winner



James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners placed 3rd at the March International Master Gardener Conference in Las Vegas for their Youth Environment Education entry in the Standards for Excellence (SFE) Awards. The Project Chair, Kari Abbott, having won the brag board for Youth Education at MG College in 2007 and a National Extension Award with the project, decided to submit it for the international award.

Congratulations James City County/Williamsburg MGs and Kari!!

May News From Across the State (continued)

Northeast



Fairfax-Green Spring, Joan Richards, Cyndi Bishop

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/mastergardener.htm>

Adria Bordas, County Agent, presented to a Green Springs MG All-Hands on Insects and Diseases including the Emerald Ash Borer and the White Nose fungus attacking Virginia's bat population.

Two additional basic gardening classes are scheduled for May. Classes meet Friday afternoons and attendance has been good.

Plant sales are held at the parking lot at Green Spring Gardens each Saturday from April 4 through May 9th from 9 AM to 12 Noon. May 16 is the giant Garden Day sale with more than 45 vendors offering their wares and plants. Master Gardeners present topics at each of the plant sales as well as hold question and answer sessions.

Loudoun, Ingrid Fovargue

<http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org>

The Loudoun County MGs turned out in force to Board of Supervisors public sessions and managed to persuade them to not cut funding for our agent. The BoS voted nearly unanimously to support our program, allowing us to continue educating and supporting our communities with knowledge, encouragement and food donated to the food bank.

The unit also became a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

April 18th & 19th saw the LCMGA participate in the annual Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival. This is our largest fund-raiser for the year. We were also busy in a number of other County events, including Arbor and Earth Days.

On Tuesday, April 21st, Loudoun County recognized our unit as the "Outstanding Adult Volunteer Team" in a ceremony held by the BoS. The unit received an engraved plaque and certificate of recognition.

Northeast



Fairfax, George Graine

<http://www.fairfaxmastergardeners.org>

A new Turf Nutrient Management Program is underway called "Home Turf: Keep it Simple, Keep it Green." A pilot group of first year interns has been established with a plan to roll this out countywide, if successful. A check list has been developed for the intern-homeowner visit in order to assess the overall condition of the lawn. After soil test results are returned from VaTech, the interns and turf team will develop an individualized turf nutrient management program for the homeowner.

Southeast



Norfolk, Don Snipes

<http://www.nmgv.org>

Tree stewards in recent years have been responsible for updating the street tree inventory in Norfolk and in 2009 will begin a new program of finding and identifying significant trees within the city.

Our funding for the Norfolk VCE office and agent were not included in the 2009 fiscal year budget by the City of Norfolk, but we have been told the position and office will be added. It was an oversight, which, thanks to our calls and letters, was brought to the forefront. We are breathing a sigh of relief.

Virginia Beach, Fran Shelton

<http://www.vbmg.org>

The Virginia Beach MGs hosted a Regional Education Program on April 24th at the Central Library for the cities of Norfolk/Virginia Beach/Chesapeake/Portsmouth/Suffolk and Isle of Wight. The program was titled "Total Gardening - Design, Ornamentals, Fruits, Vegetables, and Trees."

Virginia Beach is preparing for their annual plant sale at the Farmers Market, Princess Anne and Dam Neck Roads on May 9th.

Remaining 2009 VMGA Meetings

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for these dates:

- * June 19, MGC
- * Aug 8, Lynchburg
- * Oct 10, Rockbridge
- * Dec 12, Va Beach

May News From Across the State (continued)

Southeast

**Prince George, Cheryl Sebera**

<http://www.pgmga.org>

MGs continue to help at the Richard Bland College Water Garden and also at the Weston Manor Plantation, meeting every week to refurbish the gardens and answer the public's questions.

The Scholarship Committee came up with explicit guidelines for a \$500 scholarship to be given to a college bound high school student who will major in horticulture, forestry, conservation or agriculture.

Our Greater Tomato Contest is an annual contest open to surrounding areas for the heaviest tomato. We have a category for youth and adults.

Southwest

**Master Gardeners of the Blue Ridge (Carroll, Grayson, Galax), Charlie Whittle**

Extension agents & members conducted pruning sessions for MG's and the general public. This is part of a larger effort to restore the heirloom apple orchard at Matthews Historic Farm & Forest and to utilize heirloom produce from the orchard and farm for the purpose of teaching food prep, nutrition and entrepreneurial skills while working with the 4H Youth Development. Agents, with MG assistance, will conduct apple grafting sessions for the general public in March/April in Carroll and Grayson Counties.

State MG Liaison Report for April

By Dave Close, Virginia MG State Coordinator

- From the National Extension Master Gardener Program Review: There are 95,000 Master Gardener volunteers across the country and they contributed 5.2 million volunteer hours at a value of \$64.5M in 2008.
- The search team for Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is conducting a national search and hope to have someone in place by this fall 2009.
- The Interim VCE Director is Dr. Rick Rudd. Dr. Rudd was previously from Florida State and also serves as the Department Head for the Agriculture and Extension Education Department.
- Housing information for MG College is on the website and registration information (\$125 registration fee unless you qualify for a discount) will be there by May 1.
- Organized events for MG College will end this year on Saturday night because of Father's Day on Sunday.
- The annual plant sale (which supports the Hahn Horticulture Garden) and plant swap will be Sunday morning after breakfast before everyone heads home. We will likely have vendors this year covering tools, books, chemicals and alternative methods of insect/disease control.

MG College Scholarships

Diane Relf Educational Endowment Fund Applications

Reminder: All MG College scholarship application forms must be submitted via the local VCE Extension Agent or Unit Coordinator. Completed applications should be forwarded to the Committee Chair, Paul Campbell, at Panda91@cox.net or 1800 East Road, Virginia Beach, Va. 23454. Applications must be received by Monday, 18 May 2009. Selected nominees and their Extension Agents/Coordinators will be notified by e-mail or phone by the Chairman of the Committee by Friday, 5 June 2009. Scholarship checks will be presented to the selectees at the Annual VMGA meeting on Saturday 20 June 2009.

Any questions concerning submission of applications, please contact Paul Campbell at Panda91@cox.net.



PLEASE HELP! Silent Auction Needs You!

Help run VMGA's Silent Auction

Leslie Paulson and Sharon Corbin have been running the auction with the help of other Prince William Master Gardeners for the past few years. We started by helping Pat Reilly and have automated the checkout process. This year we would like to encourage other units to come and work with us and learn the process. It is fun and you get to know many of the contributors. Also you help raise a lot of money for the State MG Coordinator Endowment Fund.

Take a moment to consider jumping in. You get to see all the donated items first!

If you have any questions, please email Leslie Paulson at ljp6651@comcast.net or Sharon Corbin at Sharonandtrish@comcast.net.

Donate to VMGA's Silent Auction

Please support the VMGA silent auction that will take place at Master Gardener College this June. All proceeds from this auction will go towards the State Master Gardener Coordinator Endowment Fund. Our on-campus State MG Coordinator is essential for the continued success of the Master Gardener program in Virginia. Funds for this position from traditional sources are not guaranteed! VMGA realizes both the dependence of Virginia Master Gardening on the State Coordinator position and the need for stable funding. In that regard, VMGA initiated an agreement with the Virginia Tech Foundation to partially fund this position with a one million dollar endowment. We need to your help make the endowment a reality.

Lively bidding on enticing items donated by your unit and by individual MGs are of great importance to the success of this effort. Bring your donated items with you to College or arrange for items to be transported through your local Master Gardener office. Please be as generous as possible for this worthwhile endeavor. You can help by donating any of the following:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| garden & landscape tools | planters | culinary items |
| new & gently used books | baskets | table ware |
| plants | bird feeders | gardening gloves |
| fountains | hats | hand crafted items |
| garden art | bird baths | bird houses |
| home décor | drinking glasses | straw hats |

These are not the only items you can donate, just a sampling of things donated in past years.

You all did really well last year in picking items that made us a lot of money. Let's try to top it this year. With that in mind, we encourage you to ask for donations from your local nurseries as well. Every item, large and small, helps our cause.

Thank you for your support of the State MG Coordinator Endowment and the VMGA Silent Auction.

Contact Leslie Paulson (ljp6651@comcast.net or 703-330-9441) or Sharon Corbin (sharonandtrish@comcast.net) if you have questions or would like to assist. Let us know as soon as possible what contributions we can expect from your Unit. Early notification is helpful for record keeping. **We will, of course, accept donations up to the end.** Please use the following form to help us create our spreadsheet.

VMGA Auction Donation 2009

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____ **Phone Number:** _____

County: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Value (will use to help select starting bid): _____

Donated Item(s): _____

The Graine Thumb

Biodiversity: Another Way to Yardabout

By George Graine, Fairfax County Master Gardeners

"Democracy is fine in politics. It should stay there, and we need more of it. But its virtue is no reason to practice it in the garden." -- Allen Lacy

If you applaud the teaching of Rachel Carson (*Silent Spring*, 1962), Rodale (the organic king for more than 50 years), Jeff Lowenfels (*Teaming with Microbes* a.k.a. *Soil Food Web*, 2006), Eric Grissell (*Insects and Gardens*, 2001), and others of this genre, then Douglas Tallamy's text on *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* (Timber Press, 2007) is a must read. (This book has been updated and expanded as a paperback in 2009.) Tallamy presents a scholarly case for using native plants and shows how animals are also part of a larger system. He has included understandable, illustrative scientific and horticultural data to clearly make his point.

Indeed, we gardeners are being pushed in two different directions. We have propagators bringing forth the plant du jour and the omnipresent organic and native plant movements pulling in an opposite direction. Many gardeners are becoming polarized. Of course, the choice is always yours regardless of the blowing political winds, to say nothing of home owner association covenants. Is the extent of nativism a subset of the green movement, or organic and sustainable gardening principles, or perhaps a careful consideration of endangered species? The question remains, can humans coexist and sustain biodiversity that has been one of this country's richest assets?

Tallamy writes that "...unless we restore native plants to our suburban ecosystems, the future of biodiversity in the United States is dim." That is a mighty strong statement. He validates these principles and provides reasonable rationale for using native plants. For example, due to habitat disruption (such as roads and buildings), native plant species disappear or are replaced by alien exotic species. Associated insects also disappear and this reduces an important food source for birds and other animals.

The author challenges the reader to redesign their landscape so that alien ornamental plants give way to natives that will provide food and shelter for animals. All is not lost because biodiversity can be a renewable resource. It can be increased just so long as you do so before species themselves become extinct. (Obviously the author is thinking long term.) Perhaps you have plant material in your landscape that the author claims is replacing native plants in natural settings. Here is a thought that you may not have considered. Are conifers that are prevalent in Oregon wholesale nurseries, such as Colorado Blue Spruce, and shipped to Virginia an ideal plant for your landscape? Does this make the spruce an alien plant? Did this plant help the eco-system on your property or not? Regarding any plant, think about wind dispersal, birds and animals eating berries, and wetland movement -- to name a few ways in which an eco-system can change over time. Let us not forget that sometimes uninformed legislators put into law plant species that are not allowed to be marketed in the retail trade.

The biodiversity message is well founded, as it promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices in the suburban landscape in order to preserve native plant communities. If you consider this gardening approach, you will automatically link native plants, beneficial insects, and native wildlife populations. On the other hand, you may glory in what hath propagators done for your property. You still have the right to choose.

WARNING! (continued from page 1)

world started a change in my attitude. Gone was the complacency about my approach to this volunteer work, leaving in its place a passion for making my own little difference.

Finally, I must share what Bill Hoffmann from USDS/CREES/CES reported in the opening: in 2008 there were 95,000 certified MGs with an expected 20% increase this year; more than 5 million hours were volunteered, with 4.8 million personal contacts, and 100,000,000 times that via the web; with a \$65,000,000.00 value.

Keep up the good work and plan to support our neighbors at the 2011 IMGC in Charleston, West Virginia. October will be a beautiful time of year to attend!

MG College Program-At-A-Glance

Friday, 19 June, 9 AM – 5 PM**Keynote Sessions, 8 AM – 12 PM**

- 8:30 – 9 AM. Welcome and Update, College Representatives.
- 9 – 9:30 AM. Beautiful Gardens Update, Fred Duis.
- 9:30 – 11 AM. Bugs Make the World Go Around, Mike Raupp.
- 11 AM – 12 PM. TBD, Joe Murray.

Concurrent Sessions, 1 – 3 PM

- Insect ID (Part 1 of 2), Peter Warren.
- Where in the Heck Do I Start? (Part 1 of 2), Nancy Franz.
- Micropropagation, Suzanne Piovano. \$12 Fee, Limit 15.
- Junior Master Gardener Program, Stephanie Huckestein.
- Square Foot Gardening, Containers, and Raised Bed, Sheri Dorn.
- GMO's: Are We Really Dealing with Frankenfoods?, Mary Ann Hansen.

Concurrent Sessions, 3:30 – 5 PM

- Insect ID (Part 2 of 2), Peter Warren.
- Where in the Heck Do I Start? (Part 2 of 2), Nancy Franz.
- Micropropagation, Suzanne Piovano, \$12 Fee, Limit 15.
- Captive Gardening (working in detention centers) Panel, Susan French, Peggy Fox, Stuart Sutphin.
- Fire Ants in Virginia: A stinging reality!!! & Bed Bugs: Up close and personal, Hamilton Allen, Matt Reis.

- Plant Diagnostics (Part 1 of 2), Mike Likins.
- Organic Vegetable Gardening, Amber Vallotton.
- Ergonomic Gardening, Bonnie Appleton.
- The Asian Invasion, Mike Raupp.
- Organic, Natural, Local...What does it all mean?, Erin James.

- Plant Diagnostics (Part 2 of 2), Mike Likins.
- Invasive Plants, Alex Niemiera
- Biofuels, Eric Beers.
- Fairy Gardens, Greg Welbaum.
- Spanish in Horticulture, Barbara Kraft.
- The Three "Rs" – Reduce Reuse and Recycle in the landscape, Frank Reilly.

Saturday, 20 June, 9 AM – 5 PM**Keynote Sessions, 9 AM – 12 PM**

- 9 – 9:45 AM. Remarkable Trees of Virginia, Nancy Ross Hugo.
- 9:45 – 11 AM. Utility Arboretum, Moore Detention Home Nursery & More, Bonnie Appleton.
- 11 AM – 12 PM. TBD, Holly Scoggins.

Concurrent Sessions, 1 – 3 PM

- Herbal Pantry & Mediterranean Delights (Part 1 of 2), Billi Parrus.
- Essentials of PowerPoint Presentations (Part 1 of 2), Peggy Fox.
- After the Storm: Response to Severe Weather Events, Paul Revell.
- Community Gardening Panel, Joanne Hutton, Lisa Taranto.
- Kitchen Gardening from a Chef's Perspective, Mark Bratton.
- Sustainable Food Systems – Challenges and Opportunities for Gardeners, Andy Sarjahani.

Concurrent Sessions, 3:30 – 5 PM

- Herbal Pantry & Mediterranean Delights (Part 2 of 2), Billi Parrus.
- Essentials of PowerPoint Presentations (Part 2 of 2), Peggy Fox.
- Tree Selection for the Sustainable Landscape Design, Lisa Sanderson.
- IPM & Alternatives to Conventional Chemical Controls, Daniel Nortman.
- Botanical Latin – I came, I saw, I named, Conley McMullen.
- Gardening for the Health of It, Diane Relf.

- Budding & Grafting (Part 1 of 2), Alan McDaniel & Barry Robinson.
- Poisonous Plants, Kirsten Conrad-Buhls.
- Soils: the Gardening Foundation, Greg Evanylo.
- Wildlife Damage Management, Chad Fox.
- Stepables & Ground Covers, Riverbend Nurseries.

- Budding & Grafting (Part 2 of 2), Alan McDaniel & Barry Robinson.
- Blueberry Production in the Landscape, Jerry Williams.
- Xeriscaping, Kirsten Conrad-Buhls.
- Gardening for Wildlife, Suzie Leslie.
- Drainage Problems in the Landscape, Frank Reilly.

Sunday, 21 June, HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!**Plant Swap & Sale, 9 AM**22nd Annual MG College, 16-21 June 2009

Details regarding our leadership development training, advanced Master Gardener Tree Steward training, preconference tours and workshops, plenary sessions, and concurrent sessions are in the Spring Issue of *In Season*. Go to www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/newsletter.htm and click on the Spring 2009 issue. Be aware it is 14 pages.

Housing registration is available at www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/mgcollege_hotels.htm and conference registration will be available at www.cpe.vt.edu/reg/mastergardener. Monday, June 1, 2009, will be the absolute final day to pre-register for the 2009 Master Gardener College. Onsite registrations will be taken at the beginning of the college.



VMGA Report

The VMGA Report is the bimonthly newsletter of the Virginia Master Gardener Association. Submissions should be received by the 25th of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Send inquiries and submissions to:

Peggy Fox, peggyfox@hotmail.com

Dawn Meyerriecks, dmyrix@hotmail.com

Search for Excellence...

The Search for Excellence (SFE) is the recognition program for Master Gardener Volunteer work throughout the United States and Canada. There are seven categories in which Master Gardeners can demonstrate outstanding contributions to their communities. The seven categories are:

- Youth Programs
- Demonstration Gardens
- Workshop or Presentation (hands on workshops)
- Community Service
- Innovative Projects
- Special Audiences, Senior/Disabled Audiences or Hort Therapy
- Other General MG Accomplishments

The Virginia Master Gardener Association has elected to change the requirements of the former Brag Board competition by modeling this program after the International Search for Excellence (SFE) program. The hope of the VMGA Search for Excellence Committee is that every VA Master Gardener unit will participate at MG College and the winners of our state competition will then be entered into the International SFE competition to represent Virginia Master Gardeners.

For rules, competition details and a copy of the submission form, contact Christy Brennan, ctb47@comcast.net. Notification of intent to participate is due no later than 1 June!

VMGA Report
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