



# The Colonial Master Gardener

September  
2022

PUBLICATION OF JCC/W MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DEBORAH BUSSERT

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

We were shocked and saddened by news of Donna Tierney's sudden and untimely death. Although Donna had only been a member of our Association for a relatively short time, she made a significant impact by her work on the 2021 and 2022 plant sales, her hydroponics presentation to the 2022 training class, and by taking on the role of President Elect. She will be greatly missed by all of us, and we extend our deepest sympathy to her friends and family. A card has been sent to her family on behalf of the Association, and the Board is discussing other means of honoring her memory, possibly including planting a tree.

As required by our recently amended Bylaws, our Vice President of Administration Vickie Rockwell will be presenting a slate of officers for the 2023 Board of Directors to be voted on at our September 1 Association business meeting. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Board may have their name added to the slate of candidates for consideration at the meeting, but no one who has not consented in advance may be put forward. I would like to personally thank everyone who has stepped up to assume a role on our Board, past, present and future.

Don't forget the Project Leaders meeting on September 7 at 10AM in the Schell Room at the Williamsburg library. Our VP of Projects Ruth Huber will be going over the application forms and VCE Agent Forrest Hobbs will be



(Photos Courtesy of Elvin and Kay Clapp)

**Next Meeting:**  
Thursday, September 1 at 9AM  
Williamsburg Library  
<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83004438629>

**Program:**  
Blayton School Garden Project

**Speaker:**  
Pam Arnold and Ken Caro



(Photos Courtesy of Elvin and Kay Clapp)

presenting an update on risk management. All project leads and co-leads are required to attend. This is also the time to be thinking about your project's budget needs for 2023.

Our 2022 interns are continuing to progress toward Master Gardener status. At the most recent count, 15 out of 20 interns have completed all of their required hours and the others are nearing completion. Well done all of you and many thanks to our dedicated Training Team.

Thanks for all you do.

## THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY BILL DICHTEL, VP INTERNAL EDUCATION

2022  
MGA Board

*President:*  
Deborah Bussert

*President Elect:*  
Donna Tierney

*VP Administration:*  
Vickie Rockwell

*VP Projects:*  
Ruth Huber

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Bill Dichtel

*VP Communications:*  
Marion Guthrie

*Secretary:*  
Dot Finnegan

*Treasurer:*  
Linda Neilson

*VMGA Rep:*  
Joanne Sheffield

*Alternate:*  
Marilyn Riddle

*Past President:*  
Marty Oakes

*Associate Extension  
Agent:*  
Forrest Hobbs

Newsletter Editor:  
Katherine Sokolowsky  
katherinesoko@gmail.  
com

The MGA board  
meets on the third  
Thursday of each  
month at 9:30am at  
the Williamsburg  
Regional Library,  
Room B, on  
Scotland Street,  
Williamsburg.

The September 1 Meeting of the Master Gardener Association will focus on school gardening as students head back to school. Last September, we hosted David Pippin, who talked about the "Agriculture in the Classroom Program" for our schools. In years going forward, we hope to highlight some of our outstanding educational efforts on behalf of children and young adults such as Matthey's Garden, Seeds of Learning, the Garden at Clara Byrd Baker School, The ARC of Abilities Program, and other programs where we reach out to educate younger gardeners.

This September's program focuses on the Master Gardener School Garden at J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School. Ken Caro has been a project lead at the garden for more than a decade and earlier this year, the school had a ceremony dedicating the garden shelter in his name. In the last few years, Pam Arnold has joined Ken as co-lead of the project. There has been a strong cadre of Master Gardener volunteers involved in the project. They have built and maintained excellent structures and garden beds. They have provided excellent experiences and teaching and have had a full complement of students year after year. All of us can learn from their ingenuity and skill in making this such a great experience for their gardeners. Both Pam and Ken will be involved in presenting the program. Their presentation will begin at 9:00AM with the monthly business meeting to follow after the educational program.

As usual, we will have our business meeting after the educational session. The session will also be accessible by Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83004438629>

We look forward to seeing you on September 1.

## VMGA REPORT

BY JOANNE SHEFFIELD, VMGA REP

The August meeting was held on the 13th by Zoom. I could see that there were at least four of us from our Unit—Dave Banks, Linda Neilson, Carolyn Stringer and myself—out of a total of 34 Zoom participants.

The new Board ran the meeting smoothly. The Focus Topic, now listed as MGA topic on agenda is "other than brochures, what methods or displays do you use to attract visitors to your Garden Clinic tables?" Responses are to be sent to Deb Straw, Secretary, she will send them out to the Unit Representatives prior to the October meeting.

VMGA membership consists of 503 members of which 230 are continuing which means they paid \$120. There are 212 renewing and/or new members (\$12) and 3 auxiliary who support, but don't vote. I don't know why the numbers don't add up to the total.



Bev Baker with her Emeritus Certificate and on the right is Patsy McGrady with her 2000 Hour Certificate. They both are wearing their pins!  
(Photo Courtesy of Joanne Sheffield)

For information available to the public that includes gardening tips, and our activities, check out our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/VCEMasterGardeners](https://www.facebook.com/VCEMasterGardeners)) and our website ([jccwmg.org](http://jccwmg.org)). Contact Marion Guthrie ([marion.guthrie@gmail.com](mailto:marion.guthrie@gmail.com)) to submit your own gardening article!

To get to our VCE James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener homepage quickly, click on <http://jccwmg.org/wordpress/>

## VMGA REPORT — CONTINUED

Christy Brennan's State Fair report was the longest. She mentioned that not enough tickets were being provided for MGs (3 per day), but this will be taken care of, one way or the other. The fact that neither VCE nor VT has had a presence at the Fair in 4 years was brought up. (We have the following who have volunteered for this year: Deb Bussert, Ruth Huber, Mary Ann Kimminau, Marty Oakes, Gary Streb, and me.)

Kathleen Reed reported that 150 people participated at Master Gardener College. Kathleen will be at the October 8 meeting which our unit is hosting at the Stryker Center. More information regarding that meeting will be forthcoming.

## GARDEN WOES: ASTER YELLOWS DISEASE

BY CHERYL ROETTGER, MG AND MASTER NATURALIST

What's wrong with my plant? How many times have you heard this question or been asked it on a Landscape Love visit? Maybe you have even asked yourself that same question. Just as you are admiring all of your beautiful summer flowers, you suddenly spot an unusual flower on one of your garden plants. You notice that the flower appears to be deformed. Is this some strange cultivar with a modified flower? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

What you are seeing is one of the symptoms of Aster Yellows disease caused by an insect vector, the aster leafhopper. Within 10 to 40 days from the time of infection, the plant's leaves will begin to yellow even though the veins of the plant remain green. The growth of the plant will become stunted, the flowers become deformed, the foliage will begin to curl, the flowers may or may not produce seeds, and the leaves of the plant will appear smaller and narrower than normal.

According to the Missouri Botanical Garden, "Aster Yellows is a viral-like disease caused by a phytoplasma (formerly called a mycoplasma-like organism). Insects that suck the sap of plants, especially the aster leafhopper, vector the disease." As the bacteria cells multiply in the infected plants, other leafhoppers pick up the disease in their salivary glands and pass the disease onto healthy plants.

Aster Yellows disease affects over 300 species of plants such as ornamentals, perennials, and vegetables. It is important to note that Aster Yellows disease spreads more quickly during cool wet summers.



Aster Yellows disease on Echinacea  
(Photos Courtesy of Cheryl Roettger)

Unfortunately, there is no cure for the disease even though it is not always fatal to the plant. The best strategy to keep the disease from spreading is to remove the affected plants from the garden.

One solution for dealing with Aster Yellows disease is to add plants that are less susceptible like geraniums, cockscomb, nicotiana, impatiens, and verbena to the garden. Another strategy is to remove weeds that tend to harbor Aster Yellows disease such as dandelions and plantains from the garden bed. Mesh row covers can also be used to deter leafhoppers and other insects from attacking vegetable plants. It is important to note that the row covers would need to be removed for pollination.

Aster Yellows disease is difficult to control because the insect vector is found in many gardens containing a wide variety of susceptible plants. As you stroll through your

## WATER WISE GARDEN UPDATES BY ELVIN AND KAY CLAPP, PROJECT LEADERS

The Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center, a part of the JCC Human Services Center, recognized the value of the Water Wise Garden and its volunteers on August 9, 2022, during National Health Center Week.

Elvin and Kay Clapp met with Aaron Thompson, Executive Director, who gave a tour of the Center and commented on the value of the garden to the 10,000 visitors that walk through it each year. Aaron was especially pleased with the recent copper plant tags that list the common English and Spanish names. He was also complimentary of the children's educational activities that Kay has coordinated this year. Other items of interest were the new brochure that Linda Neilson is developing, to be published in English and Spanish. Another attention getter is the white board listing what is currently blooming in the garden.

In honor of Mr. Thompson's and the Center's support, Kay presented him with his own copper name tag which he proudly displays in the garden. Hopefully this is the genesis for developing a strong relationship between the Center and the Water Wise team. The ultimate beneficiaries are the staff and visitors who use this garden as a peaceful setting to enjoy.

(All photos courtesy of Elvin and Kay Clapp)



Aaron Thompson proudly displaying his name plate in the Water Wise Garden.



Aaron Thompson, Kay Clapp, and Elvin Clapp



Kay Clapp Presenting a copper name plate to Aaron Thompson



## Donna Tierney Obituary

Donna Kathryn Tierney died unexpectedly of natural causes, while visiting friends in Boise, Idaho. Born November 1, 1948, Donna was the daughter of a school teacher mother, and Navy Senior Chief father while he was stationed in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was also the proud daughter of the Ross and Falbo clans of West Virginia. First completing a bachelor's program from Dominion University in 1970, she went on to finish a masters program in business from Salve Regina University in Newport, RI.

Living around the world as the daughter and then spouse of Navy seamen – she ultimately lived in Japan, Italy, California, Rhode Island, New Mexico, Arizona, Tennessee and Florida in addition to several communities in Virginia – her career required her to be resourceful picking up Civil Service opportunities at each new post. Ultimately specializing in logistics planning, program and information management and process engineering, she became at one point a Department Head on the Executive staff of the Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington, D.C. and even turned down an offer to be on the White House Communications Staff to keep her family together. By the time she retired in 2012, Donna was a Navy Senior Subject Matter Experts in Statistical Process Control and organizational management, leaving a huge following of respected senior military leaders.

She married her college boyfriend in 1970, and they spent 52 happy years together. She had one son. In addition to traveling the world and managing a successful career, Donna was a passionate traveler and explorer. She was curious about food, culture, language, people, animals and notably plants. Her love for animals included several Terriers and multiple horses. Over the past 20 years, she regularly rode and trained horses up to this summer. An active member of Master Gardeners in San Diego and Virginia, she successfully managed the Williamsburg annual plant sale in 2021 and 2022 and was selected to be the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener President starting in January 2023. Her home gardens were also quite spectacular with fruit trees and a greenhouse full of succulents and hydroponics.

Noted for her quick smile and soft voice, Donna always had a caring, responsible personality. She worked hard at trying to do things right and set a good example, encouraging others in whatever organization she was in, toward higher standards. A natural leader, great communicator, teacher and mentor, she lit up a room when she entered.

She is preceded by her mother Libby and father Don. Surviving is husband, Pat, her son, Ryan, her sister Jacque, and a host of close family and friends who will miss her dearly. A memorial service will be held for her at The Settlement at Powhatan Creek Club House on Sunday, September 11, followed by a reception at her home. Friends and relatives are invited. Flowers can be sent to Nelson's Mortuary, 3785 Strawberry Plains Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Online condolences for the family may be shared at [www.NelsenWilliamsburg.com](http://www.NelsenWilliamsburg.com).

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make a contribution to:

James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners Association, at PO Box 1951, Williamsburg, VA 23187 ([www.facebook.com/JCCWMasterGardeners](http://www.facebook.com/JCCWMasterGardeners)).

## THIS AND THAT

### Jim Akridge —Thank you!

The Water Wise team is honored to have Jim Akridge as not only a team member, but as a well prepared educator as well.

At each work session, one of the team members presents an “in-house” education session for 10 to 15 minutes. This year, Jim Akridge went beyond the call of duty and presented a three-part series on creating well-layer landscapes based on Northern Virginia’s Master Garden seminars by Elaine Mills.

At the last work session, Jim provided tips and techniques on the proper sharpening of tools. Jim set up his tool sharpening bench with a portable generator. All team members left with not only a thorough knowledge of proper tool sharpening, but also left with all of their tools honed to perfection.

Photos courtesy of Elvin and Kay Clapp.



Above: Jim Akridge - Educator Extraordinaire - Presenting Talk on Layering Landscapes  
Below: Jim Akridge at his Workbench

### Help Desk

Join the Help Desk at the Toano Farmers Market to share your gardening guidance. In the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors, you're needed from 9 am to 1 pm on any or all of these Saturdays: Sept 10, Sept. 24th, and Oct 1st. Remember that as Master Gardeners we may not have all the answers but we know where to find them. Join us, join up. Contact Bob Howell ([rhowell0727@gmail.com](mailto:rhowell0727@gmail.com)) to sign up!

– Bob Howell, Project Leader

### Mattey's Garden

We are currently looking for an additional co-chair for the garden. Please let me know if you are interested. Nothing is more special than watching children in the garden, learning, working together, and having fun! Please let me know if you are interested. You can contact me at [lkmartin2011@gmail.com](mailto:lkmartin2011@gmail.com)

– Louann Martin, Project Leader



Donna Tierney  
(Photo Courtesy of Pat Tierney)

### THINKING OF OUR MEMBERS

The organization sends cards to members with difficult medical issues or who have experienced a death in the immediate family.

We also acknowledge achievements/ milestones and donations made to the association.

Pat Tierney and Family – Condolences

If you know any member who should receive a card, please contact our secretary, Dot Finnegan, at [definn@widomaker.com](mailto:definn@widomaker.com)

### JCC/W Master Gardener Mission Statement

*The purpose of the James City County/ Williamsburg Master Gardener is to learn, educate, and communicate environmentally sound horticultural practices to the community. Trained by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener volunteers are committed to offering information to the public through sustainable landscape management educational programs.*

### NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the October 2022 newsletter will be Wednesday, September 28.

Please send any submissions to Elizabeth Myers, newsletter editor, at [JCCWMGnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:JCCWMGnewsletter@gmail.com)



### ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.



## Carex - The Plant Your Garden is Missing!

*with Wendy Brister*

The elusive Carex. Everyone talks about their "wonders", but there are SO MANY! Where to begin? Wendy will talk about some of the native Carex species available in the trade, their cultural needs, and how they can integrate into your current landscape.

*Wendy Brister is the marketing director for Cavano's Perennials Inc. in Kingsville, Maryland. She holds a B.S. in landscape architecture from Temple University and has worked in the green industry for over 25 years. As the former conference coordinator for the Native Plants in the Landscape Conference (Millersville, Pennsylvania), Wendy has an appreciation for native plants and gardening to support pollinator biodiversity.*

### WebEx Event Details

<https://loudoun-gov.webex.com/loudoun-gov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6e9651e8a37f69a6ae0c7434e65dbdf9>

Password: LCPL



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# SEPTEMBER 1

## 7 - 8PM

### VCE Loudoun Master Gardeners Present

## FREE VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

### Hosted by Loudoun County Public Libraries

*In partnership with Loudoun County Public Library, this free public lecture series is supported by funding from the Loudoun County Master Gardener Association and the Stephen Dunbar Memorial Fund.*

**For more information visit:**

**Loudoun County Master Gardeners**  
<https://loudouncountymastergardeners.org>

**Loudoun County Public Library Calendar**  
<https://loudouncountypubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/calendar>

**Questions?  
Email the Extension Master  
Gardener Help Desk at:  
[loudounmg@vt.edu](mailto:loudounmg@vt.edu)**

# WANT TO BE A WATER STEWARD?!

Join us for our inaugural training class this fall!  
Registration opens in August! Contact Extension Agent,  
Gaylynn Callahan, gaylynnj@vt.edu or 757-727-1401, for  
more information

October 7 - November 11, 2022  
Fridays, 9 am - 3 pm

Northampton Community Center, 1435 Todds Ln., Bldg. A,  
Hampton, VA 23666



Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Water Stewards are specially trained volunteers uniquely equipped to provide education and support on water-related issues in their communities, such as stormwater management or erosion.

## EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



Rain Barrel Workshops



Shoreline Evaluation



Rain Garden Design



# How to Get Volunteer Hours

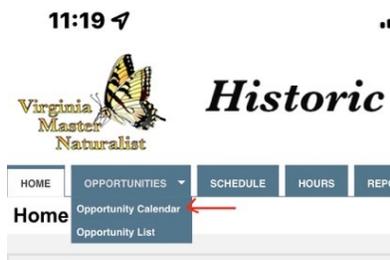
Have you ever wondered how to get volunteer hours? There's a simple 101 to it. First of all, assume **every Project needs help**. Second, well, there is no second – just volunteer to help!

## On the Computer:

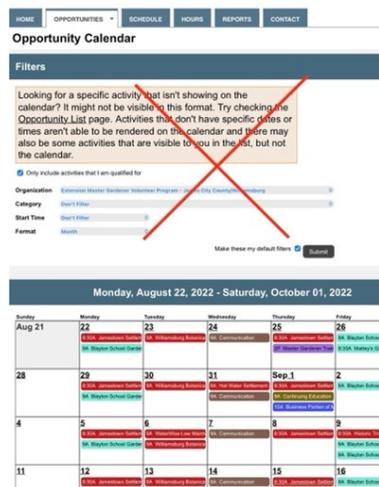
Log into BetterImpact and locate the **OPPORTUNITIES** tab on the top toolbar next to the **HOME** tab and hit it.



You will see a dropdown for **Opportunity Calendar** or **Opportunity List**.



If you hit Opportunity Calendar, you will notice that you may filter an activity (for illustrative purposes, skip this).



Scroll below the filter prompt and you will see the populated calendar or scheduled Projects (these are fixed dates, versus a Project Leader asking for help on

a given day.) Hit and activity and you will find a brief description of the activity and project leader to contact as shown below.

**Project Leads:**  
**Ken Caro:** ken@kencaro.com 973-229-4024  
**Pam Arnold:** pamsmitharnold@gmail.com

The Blayton School Garden is a cooperative hands-on project that offers a positive learning experience for Master Gardeners, students and the community. It offers students in grade 3 – 5 an opportunity to plant, grow, and eat vegetables and fruits grown without herbicides and pesticides.

You may reach out to the Project Leaders (phone or email). Confirm if they need volunteers, and inquire about their location, the days they meet and the time. Feel free to ask to be added to their email list (they likely confirm dates, time and accomplishments).

If you would like to go to **List** tab, this will show all the Projects and Activities. You may hit the specific activity to learn about it.

ACTIVITY	SHIFTS	START DATE	EN
MGA Board, Officers, Committees, etc.	1		
Monthly MGA Board Meetings	4	9/15/22	

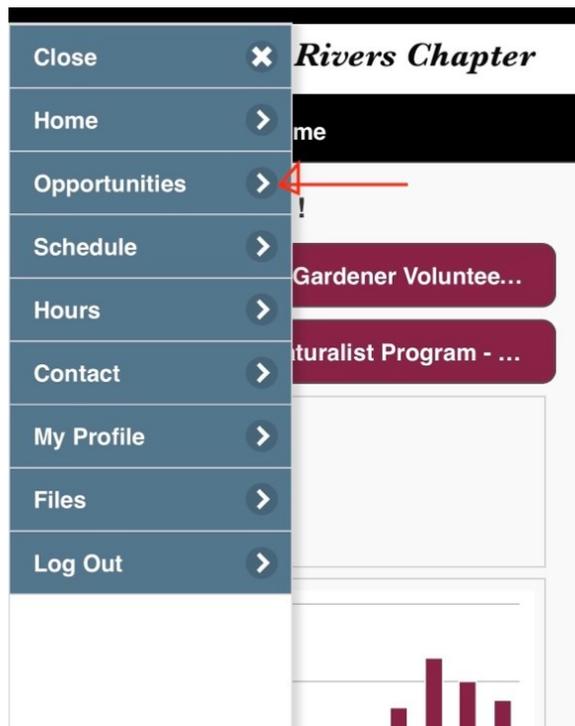
  

ACTIVITY	SHIFTS	START DATE	EN
Colonial Williamsburg Demonstration Gardens & Public Tours	1		
Historic Triangle Learning Garden - Work Days	4	8/15/22	
Historic Triangle Learning Garden	1		
Hot Water Settlement - Freedom Park "Everyday Uses of Trees"	1	8/15/22	
Jameson Settlement Cafe Garden	1	8/15/22	
Waterline Line Maintenance Garden	4	8/15/22	
Williamsburg Botanical Garden	1	8/15/22	

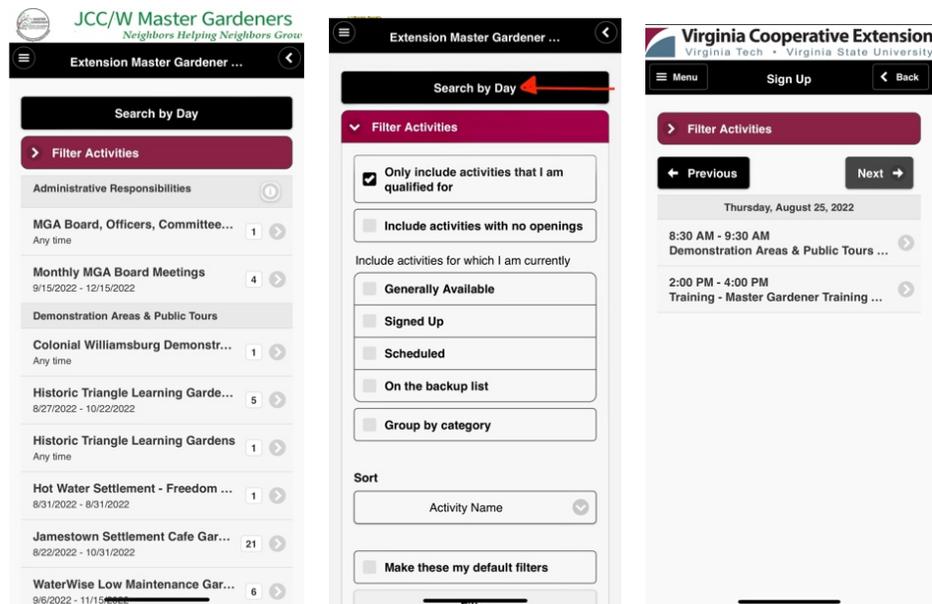
Keep the process simple. Once you are proficient with BetterImpact, play around with the links and dropdowns.

Using the mobile device, follow these steps:

Login to BetterImpact via the app. It will prompt you with a menu.



Hit **Opportunities**, and you will be prompted with the list of activities. You may **filter** activities as you choose, or hit **Search by Day**.



Searching by day tells you what should be available on that day. Any questions, feel free to contact Christine Mason at 757-206-5523.