



The Gardeners' Gazette

Newport News Master Gardeners
<http://www.nnmastergardeners.org>

Volume 22 Issue 11 November 2019

Virginia Cooperative Extension

739 Thimble Shoals Blvd., Suite 1009

Newport News, VA 23606-3562

757-591-4838



MG College comes to Norfolk

This year Master Gardener College went on the road, coming to Norfolk as a dress rehearsal for International Master Gardener College in 2021.

The four day event of tours, seminars, workshops and keynote speakers drew a somewhat larger than usual crowd of about 300 EMGs from all over the state. In 2020, MG College will return to the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg before coming back to Hampton Roads.

Many of the speakers emphasized the effects of climate change. EMG and consultant Frank Reilly said it will be necessary to both "mitigate and adapt."

One of the best ways to mitigate is plant more trees and herbaceous plants. He cited an example in Lynchburg where plants replaced turf at traffic cloverleaves.

Entomology Professor Michael Raupp spoke about how warmer temperatures lead to the spread of many insect pests that used to be killed off in winter. Now they have more generations and spread further North. The Southern pine beetle, which originated in Georgia is now headed for New York. Raupp had a similar suggestion for gardeners. "Trees and plants are always our savior."

More pictures on page 4

Close Encounter with a Chrysalis



This boy gets a close up look at a Monarch butterfly chrysalis at the NNMGA Plant Sale. Caterpillars had been feeding on nearby milkweed and moved over to the canna lily when it was time to pupate. Story on page 5

November Happenings

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Horticultural Therapy

10: 15 a.m.

James River Convalescent Center

Donations of flowers are welcome

Contact Kathy Gallo for more information.

November Help Desk 4, 6, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

VCE Office or work at home.

Contact Peggy Armstrong to volunteer.

November 6

NNMGA Monthly Business Meeting

VCE Office

10 a.m.

Guest speaker: Janet Rash

"Flowers We Love-EMG Favorites."

November 11

November Newsletter Deadline

Submit stories, pictures, recipes, notes, events etc. to verderosachristina@yahoo.com

November 18, 19

TREX Drop-off days

Please bring your Trex plastic to the VCE office these days or the day of the monthly meeting. Please do not bring plastic on other days.

continued on page 3

President's Message

Reasons to be thankful

Thanksgiving

Last month I promised “something from the heart.” This month I’m reflecting on a few of the small groups of Master Gardeners who faithfully and tirelessly give to our organization and conduct outreach and educational programming of significant impact and meaning to their participants and our community.

Horticulture Therapy, one of our oldest programs at 20 years, is such an activity. Meeting almost every Friday throughout the year, they collect and bring flowers to the James River Convalescent Center residents who then create arrangements for their rooms. Our dedicated Hort. Therapy team helps the residents, and along the way, gives them encouragement, conversation, social interaction and frequently connection to their days of working in their own gardens. Kathy Gallo, Lona Howser, Bobby McWithey, Louise Woodard, Wail Eisa, Evangeline Yoder and Helen Johnson— thank you for continuing this meaningful work in our community.

Having just enjoyed our October picnic meal, including the wonderful fried chicken, I have to recognize our incredibly hard working Hospitality Committee. Jo Blum and Nancy Morin say “yes” to everything we ask, ensuring great monthly refreshments during our more extensive social time, a wonderful lunch for our Leadership Work-

shop participants, and the relocation of our refreshment tables to the park for our picnic. They also set up chairs, distribute agendas — honestly, they just make meetings easy to conduct. Let’s be sure we show them how much we appreciate their behind-the-scenes work, which includes making arrangements with other MGs to bring goodies to our meetings. They make us feel very special, month after month.

The financial backbone of many of our EMG activities are the Rain Barrel Workshops. The funds raised through these Workshops contribute greatly to the function of our other projects. The Rain Barrel group has been dedicated to this project for 10 years and certainly deserves a shout-out. Those who have worked on the Rain Barrel Workshops this year are: Deborah Bonds, Sue Campbell, Alison DeWitt, Connie Horn-Clark, Helen Johnson, Jen Rosenberger, Donald Sasso, Deb Tate, Charlie Tiedeken, Dale Timmer and Jean Wells. Ray Robinson, who created the activity, has worked tirelessly to keep these workshops going, often going to great lengths to secure the barrels. Thank you Ray, and your team, for your dedicated work.

If I omitted your name from one of these groups, please understand that I pulled the list from the VMS. Make sure you enter all your hours under the activity for which you gave your time. I certainly don’t want to exclude anyone from a pat on the back.

This is the month of Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday. I hope it is, for you, a season of warmth and good health. Your friends in Master Gardening are thankful for you.

—Janet

2020 officers nominated



Ashley Powell

The nominating committee presented its slate of officers at the October picnic.

The slate, presented by chair Ann Winkworth, consists of three returning board members, president Janet Rash, secretary Alison DeWitt and treasurer Jimmie Espich. There is one new member among the nominees, Ashley Powell as vice president. Powell will take over for current vice president Peggy Fox.

Powell has been a Master Gardener since 2016 and recently earned her 250 hour Milestone Award. She has participated in many NNMGA projects and serves as Apparel Chair.

Rash and DeWitt will begin their second year on the Board. Espich has served since 2009.

*We send our sincere
condolences to Helen
Johnson on the loss of her
brother.*

November Happenings

continued from page 1

November 19

Shade Gardening with Barb Foley

James River Garden Club 10 a.m.
Denbigh Plantation Garden Club 7 p.m.

For more information contact Barb Foley

November 25

Book Study Group

The Garden Awakening

by Mary Reynolds

11:30 a.m.

Location TBA

For more information contact Jimmie Espich.

November 30

Deadline for payment of annual dues.

Annual dues are \$20. For more information contact Jimmie Espich.

Milestone Awards Announced

The following Milestone Awards earned by Newport News EMGs were announced at Master Gardener College:

250 Hours

Tom Breitbeil, Alison DeWitt, Helen Johnson, Ashley Powell, Sally Young

500 Hours

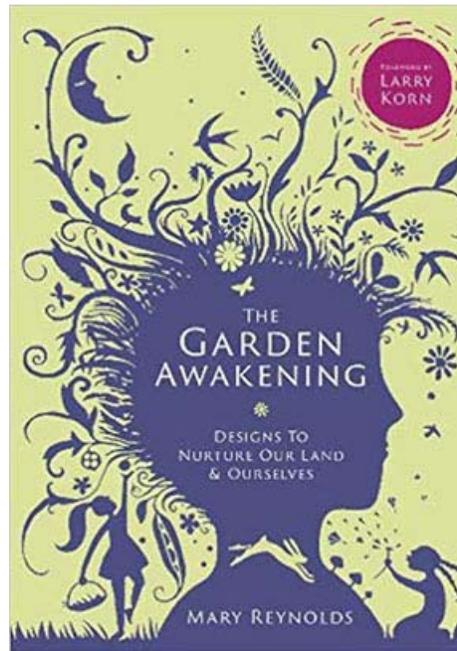
Caleb Fisher, Susan Murchison, Beth Smallridge, Jean Wells

1000 Hours

Nancy Bender, Rick Johnson

The Gardeners' Gazette page 3

Book Study Group News



Caterpillars Galore



The Grin and Grow Garden has been providing a home for lots of hungry swallowtail caterpillars. photo by Josh Carpenter.

The NNMGA Book Study Group selection for November is described by barnesandnoble.com as, “an award-winning garden designer’s unique union of a practical how-to book with stories and philosophy.” *The Garden Awakening*, is a step-by-step manual to creating a garden in harmony with the life force in the earth, addressing not only what the people in charge of the land want but also asking what the land wants to become. Mary Reynolds demonstrates how to create a groundbreaking garden that is not simply a solitary space but an expanding, living, interconnected ecosystem.

The Book Group will meet Monday, November 25 at 11:30 a.m. at a location to be named later. The Group is open to all EMGs, including those from other units. Interns are also welcome. For more information contact Jimmie Espich.

Pick our next TREX location

We need to select the site for our next TREX bench. If you have a suggestion for a location where the bench would be appreciated and used, please send a brief statement about the site and need to Janet Rash. Please ask the concerned parties if they would appreciate a donated bench before sending the info to the Board. The Board will compile the suggestions and vote on the next placement site from the submissions.

We have already placed TREX benches at various locations around the City. There are two benches in Newport News Park, two at Greenwood Elementary School, and two at Discovery STEM Academy. We earn a bench for collecting a minimum of 500 lbs. of plastic film in a six-month period.

Scenes from Master Gardener College 2019



Paradise Creek Nature Reserve in Suffolk is located along the Elizabeth River. In the 1990's, the Elizabeth River, one of the most industrialized in the country was pronounced "dead." A small group of local people refused to accept this and the Elizabeth River Project was born. The entire area, which was nothing but mudflats and trash was replanted with native plants in 2012 and is now the home of rich plant and animal life. The EMG group stopped by one of the sculptures, which have also been added.



Pollinator-friendly plants such as horsemint have become well established along the nature trails.



Christina Verderosa, Janet Rash and Peggy Fox represented Newport News at Master Gardener College.



VTU weed scientist Shawn Askew demonstrates how to start a fire using common mullein in "Primitive Uses of Wild Plants."

Recipe Corner

Fall plant sale is a success

Grilled Corn and Cucumber Salsa

3 medium corn on the cob, shucked, well grilled, cooled, then cut off the cob

1 large cucumber, peeled, cut in half lengthwise, seeded and cut into 1/2-inch pieces

1/3 cup Italian salad dressing (diet if you like)

1/4 cup diced red onion

1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes

Instructions:Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

-Janet Rash

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated plants and helped work our plant sale at the Fall Festival October 5 and 6. The weather was great; we had a huge turnout; and everyone had a good time.

We also made some money, the most money we've ever made at a plant sale! It was great working with each of you and visiting with all the other gardeners at the festival. It was definitely a group effort!

Our next sale will be in March, 2020 at the CNU Gardening Symposium.

Thanks again to everyone!

-Gary Wright



Patty Kelcourse counts contacts.
photo by Dave Norman

NNMGA honors donors



Newport News Extension Master Gardeners honored sponsors and donors at their annual picnic in October. **Left:** Seth Fisher of Mini Acre Farm, Teresa Michener of Community Knights, Laura Brown and Martha Elton from the Huntington Garden Club, Erica Deale from the Mariners' Museum and Master Gardener Ray Robinson. Rudolph Jones and Doug Kennedy, back row, represented the City of Newport News Parks Department. **Right:** Sue Campbell, Co-chair of the Grin & Grow Learning Garden and representatives from the Huntington Garden Club, Laura Brown and Martha Elton. The Club donated the sculpture in the background.

VCE-Newport News Directory

Unit Coordinator/FCS Agent
Sonja Mitchell
ANR Program Assistant...Jeffrey Williams

NMGA Officers

PresidentJanet Rash
Vice PresidentPeggy Fox
Secretary Alison DeWitt
TreasurerJimmie Espich

Committee Chairs:

Vol. Coordinator Vanessa Connell
Apparel Ashley Powell
Community Gardens Beth Smallridge
Farmers' Market Alison DeWitt
Co-chair Christina Verderosa
Finance Jimmie Espich
Go Green Expo Charlie Tiedeken
Grin and Grow Garden Janet Rash
Co-chair Sue Campbell
Help Desk Peggy Armstrong
Historian Cathy Haskell
Horticultural Therapy Kathy Gallo
Hospitality Jo Blum
Co-chair Nancy Morin
Land Care Stewards Vanessa Connell
Marketing
Publicity Seth Fisher
Newsletter Editor Christina Verderosa
New Members Janet Rash
Co-chair Cindy Graham
Nominating Anne Winkworth
Plant Sales Gary Wright
Rain Barrels Ray Robinson
School Programs Ray Robinson
Co-chair Dale Timmer
Speakers' Bureau Barb Foley
Training Madi Watkins, Cindy Graham
Tree Stewards Christina Verderosa
TRES Recycling Harold Hairston
Co-chair Connie Horn-Clark
Trips/Special Events Cathy Haskell
Co-chair Julie Mericle
VMGA Peggy Fox
Water Stewards Ray Robinson
Web Site Ray Robinson
Record Keeper Janet Rash

Virginia Cooperative Extension 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, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.



Seed swap makes a comeback



For the October picnic, Newport News Master Gardeners revived the seed swap. Members got together and took advantage of the opportunity to try some new things for their gardens.

photo by Peggy Fox