

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

June, 2014

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Sun., June 29, 4-6pm—Tom & Lesley Mack's Home**, 196 Long Fort Rd., Luray 22835 (Page)

Directions: From 81 north or from New Market: Cross over the mountain on 211 east. About a quarter of a mile from the "bottom" of the mountain take the second right, which will be Longs Road. (If you go too far you will come to a motorcycle shop called "Outlanders". Take a right there on to Longs Road. Then look for the blue farm house.) Travel for about a mile. to a blue farm house, on the corner, on the right. Take the right on to Fort Long Road, a gravel road. Our road is the first right, Long Fort Road. There will be parking in a yard on the corner house. Look for a sign. Our home is the second on the right, a one story gray house, with lots of trees and plants in the yard.

Coming from 340, Front Royal: Take 211 west about 6 miles out of Luray. Cross the Shenandoah River. Look for the "Outlanders" motorcycle shop on your right. At that intersection take Longs Road to your left. Travel 1.3 miles to the blue farm house on your left. Take the left on Fort Long Road, a gravel road...to the first right, Long Fort Road, our road. There will be parking in the yard on the corner. Our home is the second house on the right.

- **Sun., July 20, 4-6pm – Belle Grove, Middletown (Frederick), What is MG College?**
- **Sun., Aug. 17, 4-6pm – MG Siobhan O'Brien's Farm**, 1167 Shenandoah River Rd. Boyce 22620 (Clarke), Heirloom Tomatoes
- **Sun., Sep. 21, 4-6pm – AREC Center (Frederick), Nathan Stanley, Wetland Studies & Solutions**
- **Sun., Oct 19, 4-6pm – Southern States**, 447 Amherst St., Winchester (Frederick)
- **Sun., Nov. 16, 2-4pm – Warren County Government Center**, 220 N. Commerce Ave., Front Royal (Warren) Election/Annual Business Meeting

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Susan Garrett

One of the things I have realized as I have spent more time in California, where both of my sons and my grandchildren now live, is how different the horticultural landscape is from Virginia. My younger son and his fiancée recently bought a house in a style known as "California Cottage", built in the 1950's. The grounds and gardens are full of flowers and trees—avocado, fig, lemon, lime, orange, peach, plum—all mature plantings. There are also flowers, shrubs, and vines. The picture shows Josh and Ngoc in front of the oleander in their front yard during their engagement party. (It was a traditional Vietnamese celebration, so Ngoc is wearing the "ao dai", a gift from her family which took over five months to construct.)



Josh and Ngoc know I am an Extension Master Gardener, so they have asked me lots of questions about how to care for the wonderful profusion of plants and trees they have inherited from the family who lived in the house for 50 years. I have to admit to them that I can point them in the right direction for information (University of California Extension Service), but that my training in Virginia did not give me a lot of insight into the proper care of avocados, oleander, or lemons.

It is wonderful to know in this 100th year of cooperative Extension Service, that the very same wealth of information we enjoy to care for our own horticultural landscape is also available to gardeners throughout the United States through the marvelous system of land grant institutions which “extend” their information intentionally to the public. How lucky we all are to be a part of this amazing system!

BOARD MEETING MINUTES by Suzanne Boag, Secretary

See [Board Meeting Minutes on NSVMGA Website](#)

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MEMBERSHIP by Mary Craig

As of the end of May, we have 81 Active and Emeritus members and 16 students. The membership list is up to date on VMS and our webpage.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE by Lynn Hoffman

The scholarships for 2014 have been awarded to two high school students: Monica Wisecarver Clarke County and Josh Stickly from Strasburg in Shenandoah County. Both graduates were very active in community horticulture programs and excelled in their scholastic endeavors. Each will receive \$200 for their college expenses.

We have had one application for our college scholarship, James Rockwell from Stephens City, a Junior at Virginia Tech and a graduate of Sherando High School. The college award is \$1,000 and will be used for his senior year college expenses.

The Master Gardeners would like to congratulate them for their outstanding accomplishments.

NEW FREDERICK COUNTY COORDINATOR by Susan Garrett

I am delighted to announce that the NSVMGA board has approved Emily Wickham as the new Frederick County Coordinator. She will take over from Angie Hutchinson on June 20. Thanks to Angie for her dedication as Frederick County Coordinator. We appreciate all she has done for the NSVMGA--all the creativity and all the just plain hard work. And we now look forward to Emily sharing her considerable gifts with us as she steps into this position. If you are in Frederick County, please let her know what a great county it is and how many enthusiastic MG's she will be working with!

PAGE COUNTY REPORT by Lesley Mack

The 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Cooperative Extension Systems was celebrated in the Page County Office in Stanley on May 8th. Fran Gregory and Charlie Newton participated as hosts for the event. Eighty people attended the anniversary party, making the hosts quite happy.

Elke Thomas answered questions about "Fire Blight" on pears, through our Help Line system.

The Pennsylvania MGs from Westmoreland County are on a three day, two night adventure through Virginia. The 50+ MGs are stopping at the Museum of Shenandoah Valley, VA State Arboretum, UVA "Academica Village", Monticello, Center for Historic Plants at Tufton Farm, Fort Valley Nursery, and Tom and Lesley Mack's garden/grounds.

CLARKE COUNTY REPORT by Mary Craig

On Wednesday, May 14th, Suzanne Boag, Ginny Smith and I worked on the xeriscape garden at Chet Hobert park in Berryville. We cleared a path through the iris to allow people to get close to the bulletin board, which has several good Master Gardener posters on it. We weeded and, in general, spruced it up.

The Berryville Farmers' Market started May 3rd. We have always set up Saturday mornings from 9:00 to noon. The people that run the market have asked if we can be set up by 8:00, like the rest of the vendors. We may risk losing our spot, if we are not set up on time. If you have signed up to help, please verify whether you can be there an hour earlier. If not, please log onto VMS and send a message to anyone else working that day, to see if they can get there early. Don't forget to set VMS to send you a reminder when your shift is coming up.

Tracey Pitcock, the Recreation Program Coordinator for Clarke County Parks and Recreation is looking for class proposals from anyone who would like to teach a class this fall. Her goal is to offer gardening classes, canning/preservation and cooking classes to Clarke residents and offer some educational classes with these topics. She has some cooking and canning instructors but still needs

a person to help with gardening advice, soil testing, etc. If you are interested, let me know at mcorneliac@centurylink.net, and I will get your information to her.

FREDERICK COUNTY REPORT by Angie Hutchinson

Emily Wickham, who has organized the Frederick County Greenline will become the Frederick county coordinator on June 20. Thanks Emily.

Volunteers are still needed for the Timbrook Community Garden Demonstration plot. John Kummer is the contact person. Ginny Smith is looking for help with the Bowman Library Children's programs.

Fridays need Greenline help and I think there is one more Lowes Saturday.

Lots going on so let's get our hours in and the gardening information our community needs out there.

BEE ATTRACTIVE by Lesley Mack

Wild bees, like this mason bee, are most abundant on organically managed fields and fields with



natural vegetation nearby, according to a study published in *Ecology Letters* by Conservancy scientist Christina Kennedy. Christina states that, "Results dispel the myth that managed honeybees can make up for the loss of wild pollinators." Other scientists stated that, "Wild bees are better than their domesticated cousins at pollinating crops such as almonds, apples and others."

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

Susan Garrett's article above reminded me of my visit last month

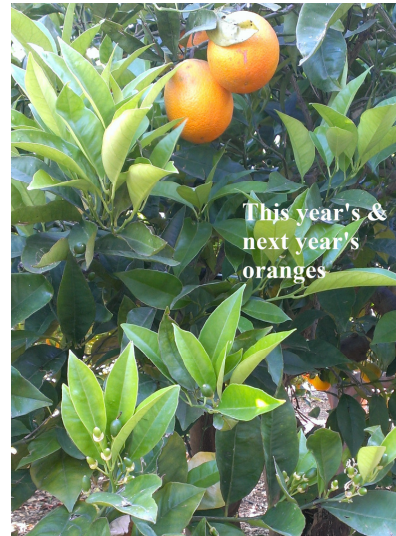
Avocados on tree



to my brother-in-law in Mallorca, one of the Balearic Islands off the coast of Spain. Even though it is at the latitude of the Mason-Dixon Line, they can still grow the tropical plants Susan mentioned because, as an island, the climate is mitigated by the surrounding water,

and, Soller, where my in-laws live, is completely ringed by three-to-five thousand feet high mountains. So when you go to pick fruit in the garden, it's lemons, oranges, and avocados. (Did you know that oranges flower and ripen once a year but lemons flower and ripen continuously throughout the year?) And a large stand at the farmer's market is all olives.

Of course, I was always on the lookout for wildflowers. I got excited when I saw two species that had no leaves and looked similar to the parasitic Corrallorhiza orchids that grow in Virginia. But research showed that they were



This year's & next year's oranges



Olives at Saturday market in Soller



Ivy Broomrape (*Orobanchae hederaceae*)

Glandular Broomrape (*Orobanchae clausonis*)

Broomrapes (*Orobanchae*). One parasitizes the Madger family (*Rubiaceae*) and the other, Ivy, and, sure enough, the picture shows it coming up through English Ivy. Based on the masses of Ivy I saw growing on walls there, it is not a very good control.