

OTHER EVENTS

- **Saturday, August 6, Water Wise Seminar, New Market Municipal Building.** If you are short on your continuing education hours here's an easy way to pick up 3. If you preregister you will be assured of an information packet.

Directions: After you exit I-81 at New Market, cross Main Street (Rt 11) and then turn right on John Sevier Rd. There is also parking behind the building and across the street.

- **Saturday, August 27, 10am-4:00pm, Tomato-Garlic Festival, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley.** This is an educational event with lectures, cooking demos, vendors, tasting and contests. Contact Mary Stickley if you want to work and get MG hours. But even if you can't or don't want to work please attend, and if you have a large tomato or garlic, bring it to enter one of the contests for the Valley's Largest. If you don't have a tomato or garlic, enter the contest to guess how many cherry tomatoes are in the jar. Attendance and contests are free and it really was a lot of fun last year.

JULY BOARD MEETING MINUTES by Suzanne Boag, Secretary

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

JULY MEETING MINUTES by Suzanne Boag, Secretary

See [Meeting Minutes on NSVMGA Website](#)

FREDERICK COUNTY COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Teri Merrill

The heat, humidity and lack of rain are making it extremely tough out there. Be careful while you garden--we don't want to lose anyone for a few cucumbers.

The junior master gardeners are meeting throughout August at their garden on Kent Street. The food they harvest supports the community organization, C-CAP.

Below are the dates and the topics that will be discussed each week. Most classes begin at 9 am to avoid the heat. The kids have a brief lesson and then harvest vegetables and clean up the beds. Come and join us if you can and support a worthy cause of teaching kids about gardening and sharing our bounty.

Contact Teri Merrill or Lynn Hoffmann before you head out, to ensure that no changes have been made to the schedule.

Aug 2 – Teri Merrill – Why do we need to keep the garden neat and weed free?

Aug 9 – Janet Keithley

Aug 23 – Helen Lake: Dog days of summer in your garden

Aug. 30 - Lynn Hoffmann: How long will the garden grow?

SHENDANDOAH COUNTY COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Carolyn Wilson

The latest news is the official vote is in. After four 4-H camps and a nature camp in Bryce the favorite vegetable was CARROTS. However tomatoes were a close second and even broccoli got a few votes. The Valley children seem to like their veggies (especially when served with Ranch dressing!)

Of course the greenline marches on with our 24/7 computer system. The greenline a bit slow right now with the most ask questions about insect problems and what turns out to be drought related problems. I feel sorry for the first year gardeners in this year of a too wet spring and a too dry summer. It's been a challenge!

Our last big event of the season will be the Shenandoah County Fair. We will be manning a MG information booth each night from 5:30 to 8pm from August 27 through September 2 and assisting the judges as they set up the entries Saturday morning August 27. Although it is the Shenandoah county fair and a notice has

already gone out to the Shenandoah MGs, I know that last year we had several helpers from other counties (especially the 2010 class). This would be a great way to spend some time comparing this years MG projects and gardening activities while you help the gardening public and get out the word about what the Master Gardeners do.

To volunteer for a shift please email Bob Carlton

TIPS by Niles Hokkanen

RX BOTTLE AS EARPLUG (or drill bit) HOLDER

Personally I prefer foam in-ear plugs over the headphone-style noise protection. For overall convenience and having the plugs at-hand whenever you need them, I put an Rx bottle on a shoestring and tied it onto the handle of the lawnmower. (I use a prescription bottle because of the locking cap.) You could also hang these holders on any noisy tools--roto-tiller, string-trimmer, etc.

Using the same idea, I use an RX bottle tied to the cordless drill to hold driver and drill bits. No more looking for bits in the grass that get knocked off the on-drill bit clip holder.



BOTTLELESS TRASH CAN INSIDE THE BAG



Watching "Ask This Old House", there was a good viewer tip in a recently aired episode. The guy cut the bottom out of an old plastic waste basket and put it INSIDE the bag to keep it open, rather than the bag in the basket. (He was using paper bags for leaf disposal.)

I cut the bottom of a cracking Scoop Away cat litter bucket and stuck it inside an empty plastic (mulch) bag for sawdust, wood shavings and cut-off ends and other trash. Works great. As the bag fills up, you simply pull the liner higher up above the contents in the bottom of the sack.

This is one of those ideas that seems so obvious, that you are baffled that it never occurred to you before!

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

The last two months I told you about flowers I have seen on the trail that are not used in the garden. Last month I saw some that can star in the garden.

My wife and I attended the biennial Appalachian Trail Conference, centered at Emory and Henry College in southwest Virginia. Two flowers we saw along the AT down there were spectacular.

One was Turks Cap Lily (*Lilium superbum*). I have also seen it along the trails in our area. The flowers are not as big as the cultivars we saw at Lee Ruddle's at last month's MG meeting, but the plants are taller, so you can often look up into the downward facing flower.



The other was Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*). Its bright red blooms lit up the woods, where it spread into the distance. That is why in his book, Low Maintenance Perennials, Robert S. Hebb classified *Monarda didyma* as *not low maintenance*—they spread rapidly, especially in shade.

