

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

February, 2013

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings will be the third Sunday of the month, and we will meet at 4pm, except January, February and March, 2013 will be at 2. All will be pot luck. Each county coordinator will be responsible for providing the eating utensils, plates, coffee/drinks. (Check with hosts of private homes if you have any questions.)

- **Sunday, February 17, 2pm (not 4pm), The Gardens of Spain and Portugal by Robert McDuffie of VaTech**, at AREC (Alson Smith Research Facility) off of Middle Road in Winchester. Please note this meeting will begin at 2pm, our Winter Hours so you can enjoy a colorful and enthusiastic presentation by this well known (at MG College at least) Landscape Architect and travel enthusiast with no worries of driving home in the dark

Directions: From Interstate 81, take the Stephens City exit on the south side of Winchester. Go west into Stephens City (200 yards off of I-81) and proceed straight through traffic light onto Rt. 631. Continue west on Rt. 631 approximately 3.5 miles. Turn right (north) onto Rt. 628 at the "T" intersection. Go 1.5 miles north on Rt. 628 and turn left (west) onto Rt. 629. Go 0.8 miles. The center is on the left side of the road.

- **Sunday, March 17th, 2pm (not 4pm), Miniature Gardens Workshop and Presentation by Lynn Phillips** of Natural Art Garden Center in Toms Brooke, Va. The workshop/presentation and NSVMGA meeting will occur in the Natural Art Garden Center's heated greenhouse/garden area. If you are interested in building your own miniature garden, you will need to preregister with Helen Lake and send a \$15.00 check to her home address (861 Valley View Drive, Winchester, Va. 22603). The fee will cover all materials required. For more information, please read the events page on the NSVMGA web site. This meeting will also begin at 2pm, our Winter Hours, so we may enjoy working in a lush, warm greenhouse during daylight hours.

OTHER EVENTS

- **Monday, February 11, 7-8pm, Fort Valley Nursery, 2013 Seminar Series, For the Love of Orchids made simple, presented by Gary deOms, Valley Orchid Grower.**
- **Sunday, February 17, 2 pm, Virginia Native Plant Society Winter Speaker Series at Tri-County Feeds in Marshall.** . **Alonso Abugattas, Arlington County Natural Resources Manager will speak on Floral Folklore and Ethnobotany.** Alonso has more than 20 years experience as a naturalist. His talk will focus on how people use plants. He co-founded the Washington Area Butterfly Society and is co-chair of the National Association for Interpretation. Contact piedmontvnps@gmail.com.
- **Monday, February 25 7-8pm, Fort Valley Nursery, 2013 Seminar Series, Latest Recommendations on Proper Planting Techniques, presented by the Fort Valley Nursery staff.**
- **Monday, March 11, 7-8pm, Fort Valley Nursery, 2013 Seminar Series, Introduction to Bonsai, presented by Tommy Tomforde, local Bonsai enthusiast.** Bonsai history and growing tips for the beginner.
- **Saturday, March 16, 8am-4pm, NSVMGA Garden in the Valley Symposium, Shenandoah University – Hester Auditorium.** See details below.
- **March 16 to May 22, MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING COURSE, Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 and on Saturdays from 9 AM to 2 PM.** The Virginia Master Naturalist program is a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. The Shenandoah Chapter, serving the northern Shenandoah Valley, is offering a 2013 training course. Cost of the program is \$150. A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available. The evening classes will be held at Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum of Virginia located on Route 50 just East of Route 340. Saturday field work classes will be held at Blandy and other locations. Classes include nature interpretation, research skills, wildflowers, trees, insects, fish, mammals, birds, geology, soil science, weather and climate, general ecology, land use, aquatic habitats, reptiles, and amphibians. The training is for adults or high school students

accompanied by a parent or adult who also participates. For more information about the course contact: Tom Adkins at 540-532-3333 or via email at dunloch@gmail.com.

- **Sunday, March 17, 2 pm, “Now that you have the Flora...”, Marion Blois Lobstein**, retired professor from Northern Virginia Community College. She worked tirelessly in promoting a modern Flora for Virginia. Now that the Flora of Virginia has been published, Marion will present tips for using the book and explain some of the changes in plant relationships and names.
- **4 consecutive Thursdays, March 21 to April 11, 9:00 to 12:30, Workshop on Using the Flora, new research lab at Blandy**, limited to 15 participants. If you are interested in joining the class please contact Carolyn Martin, Administrative Assistant, @ 540-837-1758 Ext 223. \$40 for VNPS and FOSA members, \$50 for non-members, Requirements: some background in basic botany and plant taxonomy. Required text: *Flora of Virginia*. Marion also suggests *Plant Identification Terminology: an Illustrated Glossary* by Harris and Harris
- **Sunday, March 24, 10am-1pm, Garlic Mustard Pull** Help eliminate invasive Garlic Mustard at Thompson Wildlife Management Area. Meet at the Trillium Trail Parking Lot. For more information, contact Richard Stromberg at piedmontvnps@gmail.com.

Garden in the Valley Symposium

March 16, 2013

Shenandoah University – Hester Auditorium
1460 University Drive, Winchester, Virginia

Registration:

7:45 to 8:30 “Sweet Morning Fare”
8:30 Welcoming Remarks

8:45 - 10:15: Vegetables

Techniques on growing, harvesting and choosing the variety for our area.

Dr. Allen Straw, Virginia Cooperative Extension

15 min Break

10:30: First Door prize awarded. Must be present and on time to receive award.

10:30 – 12:00:

No Mow Lawns – Alternatives to Grass in your yard
Evelyn Hadden

12:00 - 1:00:

Lunch will be served in the cafeteria.

1:05 Second Door prize awarded. Must be present and on time to receive award.

1:10 - 2:30: Edible plants in your landscape, how to mix your greens

Mike Weber owner of Weber’s Nursery in Winchester, Va

Learn how to create a garden area mixed with edible plants along with your shrubs and flowers.

Break

2:30 - 3:45: New Plants for your Garden

Heather Callahan

New plant introductions to your garden.

Highlights from Proven Winners plant producers

3:45 Closing Remarks

Final door prizes

Registration is \$45. Lunch is included in the registration. Make checks payable to NSVMG and mail to:

Lynn Hoffmann PO Box 411, Capon Springs, West Virginia 26823

You will be notified via email of receipt of your check. If you have further questions you can email Lynn Hoffmann at gwendydog@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Helen Lake

Future Speakers at monthly NSVMGA meetings:

I've gotten several suggestions of topics from fellow MG'ers and presently following up with matching substantive speakers on those topics:

Using native plants in your garden; how to have a more productive vegetable garden; how to Prune Tomatoes for Greater Productivity; How to Prune Table Grape Vines; build your Own Rain Barrel.

Please don't hesitate to let me know what topics you're interested in having at a monthly meeting and whenever possible I will seek more interactive presentations.

Junior Master Gardeners

In the midst of winter, I take delight in discovering my dwarf lemon bush (that was brought inside in the fall) in full bloom with several lemons hanging on the tips of the branches. The fragrance wafts itself upstairs to our main living quarters enhancing our senses. I'm patiently waiting for the larger lemon to ripen to use in a hot cup of tea with honey.

This lovely plant was brought into the classroom of Greenwood Elementary School for their first Junior Master Gardener's class on Plant Growth and Development. For many of the 26 students, this was the first time they had seen, touched or smelled a citrus plant. At the conclusion of the class, the students were allowed to come up front and pinch some blossoms to take home and enjoy- less lemons for me but" lemons-aide" for 26 little noses!

As you have heard, NSVMGA has introduced a shortened version of the Junior Master Gardener's program to the Frederick County Public School System. Eight topics were selected by the Teacher's Science Committee based on the curriculum that has been taught to our Home School Junior Master Gardener's Program. The Master Gardener Instructors that have volunteered to teach at Greenwood Mill have been provided timeline of instruction guidance for the 3rd, fourth and fifth graders participating. These timelines have also been keyed to SOL testing in science and math.

NSVMGA 's collaborative work with the Frederick County Extension Service, specifically Tammy Epperson, the 4-H extension tech is what brought us to the public school system and to their leaderships' enthusiastic interest and support for JrMG to be introduced to the children at Greenwood Mill. Both of the Junior Master Gardener Programs operate under the 4-H 'umbrella" and participating children can continue to be part of other 4-H programs of their choice.

The JrMG Program at Greenwood Mill will run from 17 January through 14 March with a special award program for the students receiving certificates of completion and pins from 4-H.

As Program Lead, it's been a very worthwhile endeavor to work with the Principal and lead Science Teacher along with my teammate, Tammy to make this program a reality at Greenwood Mill. The 2013 program is an experiment on both sides. We will be measuring how the MG approach to instruction as an alternative means of learning for elementary level school children at the conclusion of the school year and checking with our MG instructors on lessons learned from the experience.

On 10 January 2013 NSVMGA held a Junior Master Gardener's Workshop for anyone interested in either being an instructor to one of the two programs or helping in any manner. We were very fortunate to have Stephanie Huckestein, the State Coordinator for the JRMG Program at VA Tech

make the trip from Blacksburg for the three hour workshop. We got a lot of great handouts, relevant updates on the JrMG program overall, and, for those new to the JRMG's, an overview via a colorful PowerPoint. Breaking out in group activities was very helpful in providing us with ideas on how to plan our own class activities in the JRMG classes. The event occurred at the Frederick County Administrative Building conference room. Ten MG'ers and two VCE extension agents participated for the three hour workshop. As you can tell from the photo, camaraderie, high interest plus FUN was had by all!

(please Insert photo of MG'ers at table)

CLARKE COUNTY REPORT by Mary Craig

There is not much going on yet in Clarke as far as projects go. However, we are thrilled to be hosting the 2013 Master Gardener class in Clarke at The State Arboretum at Blandly. It's a wonderful location, easy to find, right on Route 50. We have just about filled the class and have a great list of speakers lined up. Thanks to Janet Keithley and Rose Fairman for all their efforts to get the speakers set. And to Mark Sutphin and Rich Howell for interviewing the prospective students. Thanks to the rest of the 2013 Team, too: Elizabeth Bevan, Susan Garrett, Helen Lafferty and Carolyn Wilson. This year we are all pitching in to get the class going. Mark and Susan will be Class Coordinators on Tuesday nights, Janet and Elizabeth on Thursday nights. Helen Lafferty is our Pit Crew Boss and Rose, as mentioned, helped line up all the great speakers. Rich Howell is our Student Liaison. He is the main point of contact for the students. Carolyn Wilson has provided us with very useful tips gleaned from her times as Class Coordinator and helped out with pre-registration, as well.

Some of you may wish to audit classes that you missed or topics that weren't offered your year. This has been standard practice in past years. However, due to limited space in the training mobile unit, we ask that you please contact Elizabeth Bevan in advance if you wish to audit a class. We will need to plan ahead to ensure there is room.

Again, we are very excited to be hosting the class this year. Having met some of the prospective students at our pre-registration event, I think we are going to have a great group of future Master Gardeners.

FREDERICK COUNTY REPORT by Angie Hutchinson

Frederick County is alive and well. Elizabeth Bevan, Mark Sutphin and Angie Hutchinson will attempt to coordinate events. We have two Rain gardens that need tiding up, one desperately, and Mark would like us to schedule bodies in the Extension Office this year. To continue Teri's work at Lowes, Frederick County, do we want to try spring and fall at Lowes this year. Please let me know your ideas and feelings. I promise to try to read my e-mail in a timely fashion.

MONTHLY MEETING by Mary Craig

The January meeting, as has become custom over the last several years, was held at Fort Valley Nursery. Terry Fogle gave a wonderful talk about understanding some of the horticultural terms used in our interactions with the public. The meeting very well attended. Vice President Helen Lake opened the business portion of the meeting with an awards presentation for our four Emeritus members (left to right): Eleanor Ames, Fran Gregory and Johan and Ron Guss. These four Master Gardeners have collectively contributed more to the organization than would fit in this newsletter. We congratulate them and thank them all for their many years of dedication to our group.

The meeting was followed by a shortened version of our usual potluck (finger foods) as there was a wedding scheduled that afternoon at the Nursery. (I don't know why, but we weren't invited; maybe they've seen us eat!).

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE by Mary Craig

We will be updating the list with everyone's status based on hours for projects and education from 2012. We are also starting to get dues in, so that will be updated, as well. As always, if you have any corrections or additions to your information, please let me know: mcorneliac@centurylink.net

LOGO CONTEST!

2013 marks the 20th anniversary of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners! We would like to celebrate, in part, by having a 20 year logo contest. The rules will be posted on the members section of the webpage. I know we have some very creative people in the group, so I can't wait to see what you all come up with. Send any entries to mcorneliac@centurylink.net.

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

I have started my Amaryllis. I am always too late for Christmas. Here is my method. After they bloom, I take the bulbs out of their pots and plant them in the ground. In the fall, I dig them up and put them back in pots. Then I let them dry out in a dark cupboard. You can cut the leaves off, but I wait until they wither away. After a couple months, I take them out and start watering them from the bottom. When growth starts, I put them into the light. Often the first growth is a bud, but sometimes leaf growth starts, and a flower may or may not show up later. I have been doing this with the tall, solid-colored one in the picture (and/or its offspring) for over thirty years.