

## OTHER EVENTS

- **Sunday, January 9, 1-3:30pm, Big Trees Tour**, Loudoun & Fauquier County. Carrie Blair will lead a drive tour of giant trees on the back roads around Middleburg, The Plains, and Marshall, with warming refreshments at Carrie's. To sign up and get directions, RSVP to Carrie at. Snow date: Jan 16.Sunday
- **Sunday, January 23, 2pm, Flowers at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area**. Richard Stromberg will describe his "Volunteer Vacation" in the San Francisco area last summer and show pictures of the flowers he saw in the National Parks there. Meet in the library of the State Arboretum at Blandy. For information contact Richard. Snow date: Jan. 30.
- **Sunday, February 13, 2pm, Bull Run Mountain Walk**, Fauquier County. For the Virginia Native Plant Society Piedmont Chapter Second Sunday Walk in February, Bull Run Mountains Conservancy Director Michael Kieffer will lead us along the trails of the 800 acres of the Conservancy. It is located where Broad Run, I66, VA55 and the railroad split the mountain at Thorofare Gap along the border of Fauquier and Prince William Counties. An indoor program will be offered in case of bad weather. Contact Carrie Blair for information or check the Conservancy website, [brmconservancy.org/](http://brmconservancy.org/).

## February 1 to May 5, 2011 MG Intern Class

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER by John Dickhute

As we begin a new year, the Board will be setting our sights on reaching out to as many people in the valley as possible and to increasing the opportunities for our Master Gardeners to learn more about various aspects of gardening.

To start, we will have our first meeting of 2011 on January 16 at 4 PM at the Fort Valley Nursery, Woodstock VA. The guest speaker, Terry Fogle, will share some of his wealth of gardening knowledge.

The Board is supplemented by other volunteers: Volunteer Coordinator, County Coordinators and Standing or Special Committee heads. To take the burden off of each of these volunteers (except for the Volunteer Coordinator), I have asked that one to two additional people volunteer for each of these positions so that we can establish teams. How these teams divide the responsibilities are up to the team members. What this does is provide more flexibility in running the County or heading a Committee while providing additional opportunities for earning hours.

In return, I will expect at least one member from each Committee or County to be present at the Board meetings to provide feedback on what is being accomplished or to report on upcoming events. That in turn, will provide the Board with pertinent information to pass on to our members.

Clarke and Frederick Counties do not have Coordinators and thus no one for the Extension Agent to work with nor is there representation who can tell the Master Gardeners what is going on in these Counties.

GardenFest Committee also requires volunteers to step forward in order for GardenFest '11 to happen. These positions are what you make of them and can be managed within your schedule. We have close to 150 members. I know that there are many out there who can fill these positions.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 16th. There will be a draft agenda sent out the week prior to our meeting as the Board cannot meet to finalize the agenda until the day before our monthly meeting.

### NSVMGA OFFICERS FOR 2011 by Mary Craig



**Coordinator: Randy Langford, President: John Dickhute, Treasurer: Scott Hinkle, Secretary: Suzanne Boag, Vice President: Cy Haley**

### **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S REPORT** by Randy Langford

First of All, Let me take this time to wish each and every one of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2011. As we begin this new year, let us remember our purpose as Master Gardeners, to educate the public, reach out to our communities, and spread the word of our cause and purpose. This will be an exciting year for continuation of established activities and events, and to launch new events that will even further the public knowledge that we are here to help and assist them as Master Gardeners. After all, let's not forget, at the bottom of all our name tags, it is embossed "Volunteer".

Coming ever so quickly, the new MG Class of 2011 will be beginning, we need to do our part in supporting and embracing the new members and the efforts of those that are putting forth their time to conduct and orchestrate this new class.

Our first meeting of this new year is on the 3rd Sunday of January, 2011 at Fort Valley Nursery at 4:00PM. And as always it is and will be a "Pot Luck" event, so let's try out those new cookbooks received for Christmas. especially the recipe's that have peanut butter cookies.

We are looking for members to assist with the planning of the Gardenfest, I will be making that announcement at the meeting. If you are interested, be at the meeting so we can establish some meeting times and places. It is time to make this event happen.

Next on the agenda, I not too long ago sent out an email reminding all that we have need to fill a Coordinators position in Frederick County, and to my chagrin, not one single response, that is amazing to me. Folks, let's take a little time and look at the bottom of that name tag again. That is why we are here.

### **EDITORS CORNER** by Richard Stromberg

Jim Pitzvada hasn't sent Johan Guss any more plants to identify, but I have been thinking about the ones from the past two months. One was first described to me as having a yellow berry. What is a berry? Botanists define a berry as a fleshy fruit with several or many seeds. The fruit of both the Horse Nettle (*Solanum carolinense*) and Hardy Orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*) fit that description.

A blueberry is a berry. Neither a strawberry nor a blackberry (or any other bramble fruit) is a berry. A strawberry is a fleshy receptacle on which achenes are attached. An achene is a dry fruit that does not split open containing a single seed. Blackberry, raspberry, *et al* fruits are an aggregate of drupes. The outer part of a drupe is pulpy or fleshy and the center has one hard stone enclosing the seed (think peach or cherry). A tomato is a berry. A cucumber is a berry. A watermelon is a berry. I know you are disappointed there are no pictures, but you all know what these "berries" look like!