

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

January, 2012

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings will be the third Sunday of the **month**, and we will meet at 4pm. 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, January 15, 4pm, Fort Valley Nursery**, in Woodstock. Mark Sutphin, new Frederick County Extension agent, will be introduced. Carolyn Wilson is getting a speaker.

Directions: From I-81, take exit #283 Woodstock. Go west on Rt. 42 and take left on Hisey Ave. (just past Tractor Supply Company). Fort Valley Nursery will be located on your left 1/4 mile.

OTHER EVENTS

- **Sunday, January 8, 9am-4pm, Virginia Native Plant Society Second Sunday Walk, National Mall, Washington, DC.** Visit the US Botanic Garden's "National Garden" of indigenous Mid-Atlantic plants labeled for self-discovery, between Maryland Avenue and Independence Avenue. Then cross 3rd Street. to explore green planted areas around the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). Carpool from the Marshall Bloom grocery parking lot (left side). Museums open at 10am. Dress warmly and prepare to walk with Carrie Blair through garden areas and lawns with big oaks surrounding the Capitol Reflecting Pool. Spend time in the Botanic Garden and lunch on your own in Mitsitam Native Foods Café and shop in the Roanoke Museum store in the Museum. Contact Carrie Blair 540 364-1232 for carpool planning. Poor driving conditions will cancel this event.
- **Tuesday, January 24, 10:30 am, Junior Master Gardening Planning, Frederick County building, 107 N. Kent Street (across from the Winchestar Star), second floor**
- **Monday, January 30 1pm, Gardenfest Planning, Belle Grove, Middletown.** Please come if you want to volunteer to help. We need to start nailing down our activities and what we want to do this year. If you would like to help, but cannot attend, email me and I will put you on my list. We will meet in Sally's room on the ground floor. Please let me know if you plan to attend.
- **Saturday, February 4, Garden In The Valley Symposium, Shenandoah University, Hester Auditorium.** A full day of information presented by 5 horticulture professionals, speaking on different aspects of home gardening. The presentations will cover green and living walls, organic ideas for growing fruit, new plant introductions, plant pests and invasive bugs and learn how to take care of trees and shrubs in your yard. See details below.

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM by Lynn Hoffman

Spring will be here before we know it, and I have to start planning for the Junior Master Gardener classes. I need about 15 MG to help teach classes for this coming year. This is a project for the entire organization, and I ask if you can do just one class of an hour and a half to interact with these future gardeners. Or if you want to do more, we can keep you busy one morning, once a week all summer long. The classes will probably start in late February and last until the end of May. I would like to get people to volunteer as a teacher or assistant so please send me your name. The kids range in age from 8 to 12 and are all well behaved and want to be there. So please let me know, and don't assume someone else will do it.

FREDERICK COUNTY COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Teri Merrill

We're starting a new year and that gives everyone in our organization a new opportunity to be active. Please consider increasing your hours this year, even by a few each month, and help out with our Frederick County Extension projects, first and foremost.

For example, Lynn Hoffmann is hosting a meeting to prepare for the Junior Master Gardening program. The date is Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 10:30 am, and the meeting will be held at the Frederick County building at 107 N. Kent Street (across from the Winchestar Star, second floor). If you haven't helped with this program in the past, please think seriously about participating this year.

I met with our new Extension agent, Mark Sutphin, and he said he will rely on the Master Gardeners to reach the gardening public. That means our Greenline, home consultations, lectures, and other activities will be highlighted. To remain informed about what we need and what we're doing, please read e-mails as I send them and respond to me if you can help with various projects.

CLARKE COUNTY REPORT by Mary Craig

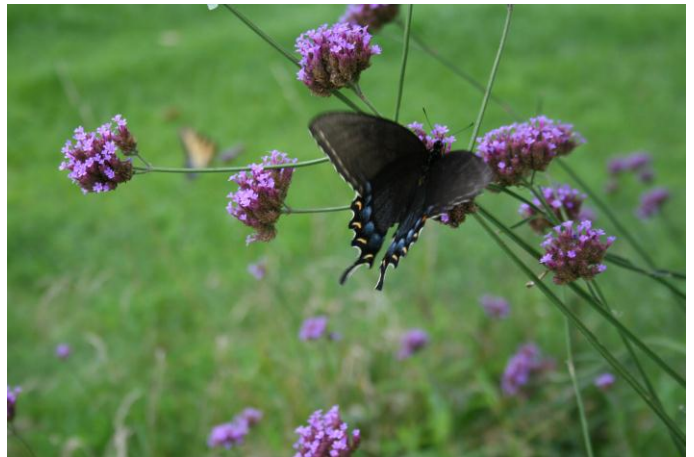
Nothing is going on in Clarke at this time of year, but I did get my first Seed Catalog the other day. These cold, overcast days are great for curling up in a cozy spot and looking through the catalogs, dreaming about what this years' garden will look like. What different flowers, fruits or vegetables do I want to try this year? We'll plant fewer peppers and more beans this year. We had nowhere near enough beets for pickling, we only got a few jars, so we'll plant more of them, too. And the dogs can't get enough fresh-from-the-ground carrots, so I guess we need more of them, as well. We will have to keep an eye on the tomatoes for stink bugs and catch them early.



Where will I put new flowers? Should I move this clump of daylilies to make room for something more exotic? How can I add to my butterfly garden so I can enjoy watching more Monarchs this year? My butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) did really well last year and I found eggs on it.

I think they may be monarch eggs. Wouldn't that be exciting! And for those of you that I've pestered the last few years trying to find more *Verbena bonariensis*, the tall purple verbena, relax, mine came back with a vengeance this year. In fact, Lynn or Janet, if you would like some, I have enough to share. The butterflies love it, too.

I am helping a friend's 6 year old daughter plant a butterfly garden. We started it last year and will add more flowers this year. It is fun to see how excited children get seeing butterflies on their flowers.



So kick back and enjoy those catalogs and let me know what exciting things you might have planned for your gardens this year. That's the joy of being a Master Gardener, sharing our love for growing things.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Mary Craig

I'm working on the 2012 version of the membership list. Please take a few minutes this winter to look over the last one on the website and make sure your information is correct. If you have any changes or corrections, let me know at mcorneliac@centurylink.net.

HISTORIAN REPORT by Mary Craig

If you have any items, articles, pictures, or information on projects that you feel should be included in our archives, please let me know. You can send them to me, or I can pick them up at the one of the meetings.

In gathering information, I have been going over old newsletters. (I have them all going back to 2002, if anyone wants to look at any). I came across this list of New Year's Resolutions put together by Bob Carlton, twice President, once Volunteer Coordinator. I think they are as relevant today as they were when he first posted them in the January 2004 Newsletter.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS
Bob Carlton

A new year is upon us. Time to break out last year's resolutions – which did we do; which did we not? What made us do some and not others? Now that we know the whys and wherefores, it's time to make this year's Master Gardener resolutions. Some you might consider are:

- As a minimum, I will give at least 20 volunteer hours and get 8 hours of continuing education.
- I will think up, develop and execute at least one new project.
- When a call goes out for volunteers, I will make every effort to respond in a positive way. If I volunteer, I will follow through.
- I will attend all Association meetings and participate in the activities of the meeting.
- I will support the Coordinator of the Master Gardener Program class in whatever ways I am asked.
- I will help new Master Gardeners to become involved in our programs so that they might get the same enjoyment, satisfaction, and fulfillment as I do.
- I will continue to support the efforts of my fellow Master Gardeners to help assure their success.
- When I meet Master Gardeners, I will let them know how happy I am to see them and to have the opportunity to be with them as Master Gardeners and friends.
- At meetings and other gatherings of Master Gardeners, I will not only mix and mingle with old friends, but make every effort to make new ones.
- I will try to plant at least one new vegetable or flower species or variety this year,
- I will turn in my hours on time.

When you have met all your resolutions, we will fit you for wings and a halo.

GARDEN IN THE VALLEY SYMPOSIUM by Lynn Hoffman

February 4, 2012

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

7:45 to 8:30 Registration “Sweet morning fare” Pick up registration packet

8:45 Welcoming Remarks, Heather Callahan, Proven Winners District Manager. New plant introductions to your garden.

Highlights from Proven Winners plant producer

15 min Break

10:05 First Door prize awarded. Must be present and on time to receive award.

10:00 – 11:00 Gregory Michael Peck, Ph.D. Balance between an organic approach to raising fruit and using responsible spraying for home orchards and fruit growers.

11:00 to 12:30 Stanton Gill – University of Maryland Extension Service. Pests in your perennial garden and invasive species to watch for in the Valle

Lunch until 1:25 Lunch will be served in the cafeteria.

1:30 Second Door prize awarded. Must be present and on time to receive award.

1:30 to 2:30 Lynn Phillips manager of Natural Art Garden Center in Toms Brook, Virginia.

Green Roofs- living green walls See how to create your own green roof or decorate your garden with a green wall.

Any ‘Necessary room’ breaks will be on your own

2:30 -3:45 Peter Deahl – ISA Certified Arborist and owner of Fine Pruning. Trees and shrubs for your garden. Start with the right tree and learn the proper way to keep your trees healthy with proper pruning and shaping.

3:45 closing remarks. **Final door prize drawing**

Download the registration form from the NSVMGA web site.

WINTER FRIENDS by Mary Craig



This bold pair of pileated woodpeckers will, no doubt, have my cherry tree picked clean by spring. It's a lot of fun to watch them all (I've seen 3 this year) eating cherries every day.

They are our largest woodpecker and you can tell the males from the females by the color of their whisker (malar) and forehead: the males have red and the females are black. I can hear

them coming down from the woods by their calls. I always have the camera ready in hopes of getting pictures of them. I've been rewarded with these close ups of the female in the first picture and the male in the second. I think the third must be an offspring from a past year who has settled nearby.



WEED ID by Lynn Hoffman

Iowa State University has a weed ID guide with pictures. You can download it to your iPad, or to your computer from www.iasoybeans.com/productionresearch. It can also be purchased at the ISU Extension Online Store at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/>.

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

When I hike this time of year, I enjoy the views that are not available when the plants have leaves. I do not expect to see flowers. I see remnant asters and goldenrods into November. Before this winter I have seen Canada Violets (*Viola canadensis*) in flower the last week of October in Shenandoah National Park in Big Meadows and Little Devils Stairs, but I saw some in bloom on the latter on December 3rd this winter! I hiked the Buzzard Rock Trail on the north-east end of the Massanutten on January 1st and found Moss Phlox (*Phlox subulata*) blooming. That is obviously the earliest date I have found a flower, tying the Hepatica I saw several years ago.

