

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

July, 2012

Timesheets Are Due!

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, July 15, 4pm, (Note CHANGE TO 4TH SUNDAY), Tom & Leslie Mack's home** in Luray.

Directions: From 81 north. 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.

- **Sunday, August 19, 4pm, Clarke County Herb Garden.** Carrie Whitacre on Herbs in the Garden
- **Sunday, September 16, 4pm, TBA**
- **Sunday, October 21, 4pm, place TBA, Orchids**
- **Sunday, November 18, 4pm, Warren County Government Center, Front Royal.** Elections
- **December.** No meeting

OTHER EVENTS

Sunday, August 12, 1pm, Virginia Native Plant Society Second Sunday Walk. Dickey Ridge Trail. Join master naturalist Richard Stromberg for a 2 hour hike on the Dickey Ridge and other trails in the Shenandoah National Park, leading past overgrown meadows of old homesteads and a stream. This is a fairly easy walk. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, bug spray and sunscreen. Meet at the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center, just before milepost 5. Request information at piedmontvnps@gmail.com.

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER SCHEDULE by Lynn Hoffman

July 10	Garden Class Room	Make garden kids
July 17	Work in the garden	
July 24	Work in the garden	
July 31	Garden Class Room	Make bird houses and feeders
August 7	Work in the garden	
August 14	Garden Class Room	Make Hyapatufa pots

August 21	Work in the garden	Bring home your Hypatufa
August 28	Work in the garden	
Sept 4	Garden Clean Up Day	
Sept 11	Jr Master Gardener Graduation Ceremony	
	Lunch at Wesley United Methodist Church	

JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES by Suzanne Boag, Secretary

See Board Meeting Minutes on NSVMGA Website

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MG COLLEGE RECORD SET by Suzanne Boag,

NSVMGA set a record this year with **8** MGs attending Master Gardener College: Suzanne Boag, Malinda Gordy, Johan Guss, Cy Haley, Larry Haun, Angie Hutchinson, Mary Stickleby, and Carolyn Wilson.



Close to 300 MGs attended the College this year from counties all over Virginia. MGs stayed in dorms at Virginia Tech and met in the dining hall for meals. We attended a wide variety of classes that ranged from Organic Solutions to Heirloom Vegetables in Virginia to Community Gardening. Mary Stickleby was a volunteer as well as a speaker and her topic was Turf Alternatives.



Garden Tours were another option for attendees and we all enjoyed numerous key note speakers who spoke about “Mulch, and This Time Do It For The Trees!”, “Remarkable Trees of Virginia”, “The Shady Lady’s Bulb Garden”, “The Color of the Native Plant Palette”, and “Aging Gracefully As One’s Garden Matures” among other things. One of the pictures was taken at the dorm, and the others, at the Hahn Horticultural Garden.



Our NSVMGA group was pleased to learn that NSVMGA placed fourth for Special Audiences in last year’s Search for Excellence Competition (Lynn Hoffmann had submitted an entry describing our very successful Junior Master Gardener Program.) Four MGs from NSVMGA were recognized at the Awards Ceremony for milestone volunteer hours: Angie Hutchinson with 250 hours, Cy Haley with 250 hours, Larry Haun with 500 hours, and Carolyn Wilson with 4,000 hours. One hard working MG received an award for 17,000 hours!

There were many activities available to MGs outside of classes and tours. A group of us took time one evening to explore the beautiful Hahn Horticultural Garden on campus, and Larry enjoyed some musical events taking place on campus as well. And to top it all off, MGs were treated to a dessert reception one night, a silent auction the next, and a picnic lunch was a nice send off on Sunday before packing up and going home to our respective counties. Oh, and did I mention that we all received free plants and many of us won door prizes that were, you guessed it, plants!

I hope that all MGs consider attending MG College sometime in the future. I think that it would be fair to say that we all enjoyed it, learned a lot, and hope to attend again. An incentive for attaining milestone awards of 500 hours or more is that a discount is offered to help offset the cost of tuition so long as you use the discount either the year you receive the award or in the following year. Something to think about for next year...

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

I went to Eugene, Oregon last month to watch the Track and Field Olympic Trials. On mornings when no track events were scheduled, I got to tour some of the many biking/running trails in the city, and on the two days off in the middle of the week I got out on trails out of town. Trails run along both sides of the Willamette River, which goes through the city. A highlight of the south bank is Owen Rose Garden. It has climbing roses

along the outer fence and 4x12 plots inside, each one filled with a single variety—in full bloom. Each plot gave the rose’s name, year, and AARS awards.

The trails through the woods are much different than the ones here: dark because of the huge evergreens, mostly Hemlock and Firs (some estimated at up to 2,000 years old), damp/sodden, and not rocky. Lichen and mosses hung from trees rather than as mats on the ground or flat against rocks and bark.

A few flowers I saw there also grow in our area: False Solomon’s Seal, Indian Pipe, Goats Beard, Yarrow, Stinging Nettle. Others were similar to species that grow here:

Western Species	Similar Eastern Species	Differences
Western Red Columbine (<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>)	Wild Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>)	The Western Red Columbine flower is shorter/stubbier
Columbia Lily (<i>Lilium Columbianum</i>)	Turk's-cap Lily (<i>Lilium superbum</i>)	Columbia Lily flower is much smaller
Pacific Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>)	Great Laurel (<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>)	Great Laurel leaves are longer; plant is bigger
Pacific Bleeding Heart (<i>Dicentra formosa</i>)	Wild Bleeding Heart (<i>Dicentra eximia</i>)	<i>Dicentra eximia</i> flower is longer, narrower
Tall Bugbane (<i>Actaea elata</i>)	Black Cohosh (<i>Actaea racemosa</i>)	Look the same to me

Some I have not yet been able to identify, particularly yellow composites (always a problem). Some species I saw are native only in west, some of them seem to me to be garden-worthy, but while Checkerbloom (*Sidalcea*) is commonly used in gardens, Brodiaea is not.



Turk's-cap Lily
(*Lilium superbum*)



Richard Stromberg

Columbia Lily
(*Lilium Columbianum*)



Richard Stromberg

Wild Columbine
(*Aquilegia canadensis*)



Richard Stromberg