

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

June, 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, June 24, 4pm, (Note CHANGE TO 4TH SUNDAY), Warren County, Home of Lee Ruddle.** Lee will talk about how he designed his garden and will give a tour.

Directions: From US 340 south of Front Royal, turn west on VA 619, Rivermont Drive, towards the Warren County Airport. After crossing the South Fork of the Shenandoah River and Catlett Mountain Road at the bottom of the hill, turn right on the next street, Hatcher Drive to number 168.

- **Sunday, July 15, 4pm, Shenandoah County Government Offices**
- **Sunday, August 19, 4pm, Clarke County, The Virginia State Arboretum at Blandy Farm.** Carrie Whitacre on Herbs in the Garden
- **Sunday, September 16, 4pm, Frederick County**
- **Sunday, October 21, 4pm, Shenandoah County**
- **Sunday, November 18, 4pm, Warren County Government Center, Front Royal.** Elections
- **December.** No meeting

OTHER EVENTS

Sunday, June 10, 1pm Virginia Native Plant Society Piedmont Chapter Second Sunday Walk_Fauquier County. Bull Run Mountains. Michael Kieffer, Executive Director of the Bull Run Mountains Conservancy will lead a walk through the woodlands of the Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve. Meet at the Conservancy at 1pm. Request information at piedmontvnps@gmail.com.

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER SCHEDULE by Lynn Hoffman

June 12	Trip to the Shifflett Farm in Shawnee Land Helen Lake, Marsha Burd, Marianne Pagington, Lynn Hoffmann	
June 19	Green roof and water quality Shenandoah Univ., Lynn Hoffmann	
June 26	Work in the garden	
July 3	Garden Class Room	Look for bugs and ID them
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 Hyapatufa
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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GARDEN FAIR by Suzanne Boag,

Overall, the MG Booth at Garden Fair was a success with great weather, lots of contacts, and raffle ticket sales. I've included a summary of the feedback I received from Garden Fair shift leaders in hopes that we can use it to improve ArborFest 2012 and next year's Garden Fair.

2012 Garden Fair Wrap Up

- \$144 raised by the raffles.
- Deer repellent donated for raffle by a vendor.
- Mary C. has raffle items & bins, tickets and cash box.

Shift Leaders' Suggestions:

- Purchase a cash box for events with money handling.
- Start up cash.
- Sign-up sheet w/name, county, email & phone for those interested in MG Class.
- Hand out w/brief description of class (e.g., cost, which county it will be in, number of hours in classroom required, some of the things they'll learn, what is required to get certified, website address, etc.).
- Keep the table and materials out front rather than a walk-through booth. It keeps us out front and engaged with passersby.
- One entrance to booth with table out front with hand-outs.
- Clipboard to track/list gardening questions asked.
- Add a plant I.D. book to the travelling library.
- Instruction notebook for event set up.
- Laminated instruction sheet for canopy set up, take down and half-way take down.
- Fewer raffles.
- Hand out display rack - set up once for each event.
- Displays and Demonstrations (e.g., Lasagna Garden Display and Working Worm Bin Demo).

Shift Leaders' Observations:

- Good location.
- For the most part busy.
- Great job keeping us informed and supplied.
- Absolutely perfect weather and great fun.
- Rain Barrel a big draw.
- Maybe too many raffle items.
- With 4 raffles we're almost to the point of being a vendor that sells.
- Green line sheet (clipboard) helpful for gardening question follow-up.
- Surprising number of inquiries about MG Class during Sat. morning shift.
- The pest book was great – helped to identify rose slug damage.
- Interns needed to be reminded what they were there for – too much sitting around and talking (Sat).

- Under normal circumstances we could get by with a couple of working folks rather than four to a shift.
- Gave up on being a “census taker” and tried to just identify the number of visitors we had.
- Our purpose seems to have become more about making money at this event than education.
- People were confused because we were selling black rain barrels and raffling a terra cotta one.
- Only 3 hand-outs on the table Sunday afternoon.
- The rain barrels were the primary draw and they are not really ours – we’re selling them for Alison and Jennifer.
- Shifts fully staffed with only one no-show volunteer.

THE GUSSES LEAVE by Carolyn Wilson

Johan and Ron Guss have moved to their new home in Charlottesville. We gave them a royal send-off at our last meeting by making them both emeritus members and naming the horticulture scholarship the "Johan Guss Scholarship". A card was sent around for everyone present to sign. As the meeting was breaking up Johan told me how very much our acknowledgement of their years of work on behalf of NSVMGA meant to her. We'll miss them but Johan assures me that she plans to join the unit in Charlottesville. The Gusses stand at the left in the picture.

JOHAN GUSS by Richard Stromberg

Johan was NSVMGA’s first Coordinator. NSVMGA is here because of her. In those fledgling days, she made it go. She held the position longer (by far) than anyone else. She got us to start things and made sure they kept going. Like a seedling, what a wonderful NSVMGA tree you have grown, Johan. When she finally resigned as coordinator, I prepared “Mother Guss’ Corey Childs Garden of Verse” (Corey Childs was our Extension Agent then), and I’d like to reissue a couple of the nursery rhymes:

**Corey, Corey, not to worry,
How Master Gardening would grow.**



**Many a push from Johan Guss,
Is why we're all standing here now.**



Ride a white horse to Catfish Trail,

To see Johan's garden in the vale.

With gloves on her fingers, and Ron to dig holes,

She shall have flowers wherever she goes.

FREDERICK COUNTY COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Teri Merrill

This is a busy month for us, so thank you ahead of time for your commitment to our organization. We have a number of county members who have not yet paid their \$10 annual dues. To be considered a full, active member, you really need to pay the dues and submit your hours. Please get your check or cash to our treasurer, Luann Laundry, as soon as possible.

This is what's going on in Frederick County this month:

Greenline. We started our virtual Greenline in mid-May. I will send a note to each of you the week before you volunteer to remind you of your commitment. Please jot down what questions people had and your answers. At the end of each week, Mark Sutphin, our Extension Agent, would like for each volunteer to write him and let him know that you answered each question and if you ran into any problems. Remember, you can claim three hours of volunteer time, whether or not you answer any questions. Let me know if you run into problems, and I can contact one of our veteran mentors to help you out.

Lowes. Our real Greenline will take place four at Lowes Saturdays in June: June 9, 16, 23, and 30, from 10 am until noon. I will contact you prior to your week to remind you about your commitment. We now have a portable reference box for you to bring with you to help you answer questions. You can pick it up at the Extension office during the week, along with any other reference material that you might need. It will be your responsibility to get the box and materials back to the office for the next group of volunteers. Please keep notes about what is asked each week. Lowes is very excited about working with us, so let's view this as an incredible opportunity to meet the public and answer gardening questions.

Frederick County Fair. I send out a sign-up sheet for this soon. Please consider helping out if you have been inactive to date. This is a good project for those of you who work during the day, as our commitment is at night only.

Junior Master Gardeners. This may be one of our most successful projects to date. The students and their families meet almost every Tuesday at the Kent Street garden in Winchester for instruction and basic garden maintenance. It's worth your time and effort to come out to see this garden and be part of this great project. If you could help out at least one day during the summer, please contact Lynn Hoffmann at gwendydog@gmail.com

A few thank you's are in order:

Thank you to Martha Makosky and Virginia Hisghman for taking time to put together our portable reference box. They spent many hours copying and gathering the material for our use at Lowes and for the Frederick County Fair. This is an important resource for us, and it makes us look more professional and prepared when we go out to the public.

Thanks also to Donna Downing and several members who met at the George Washington office in Winchester to consult on an herb garden for the historical society. We get a few requests for consultations each year, so it's nice to have members who have experience doing this. They are a lot of fun, so consider helping out next time we get a request!

And remember: Take time to smell the roses in your own garden too!

CLARKE COUNTY REPORT by Mary Craig

Our Farmers' Market is in full swing. We set up by 9:00am and stay until noon. It's really a lot of fun and you get to meet a lot of very nice people. This year a few gentlemen have a bluegrass/country jam session each week at the market, so we now have music. We like to have a veteran MG with any new interns, but we welcome you new people to sign up and learn how we do things at the Farmers' Market.

GardenFest will have come and gone by the time this is posted, and I'm sure it will be a bigger success than last year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

The May meeting at The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley was a great meeting. Mary Stickley gave a very good talk on roses and answered a lot of questions for us. As usual, there was a wonderful potluck meal and the weather was nice so we could sit outdoors and eat.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Carolyn Wilson

The green line is getting more questions as the gardening season gets in full swing. This year we are experimenting with 2 farmer's markets. Kevin Hollingsworth is in charge of the Woodstock booth the second Saturday of the month and Belinda Palmer is the leader of the Strasburg evening market the third Friday of each month. Both reported good traffic last month. We hope this will give our new interns who work 9-5 jobs a chance to earn their hours.

The 4-H camp will start the last Wednesday in June. As in past years, retired teacher Sally Walters will be the project leader. If you enjoy working with children let Sally know.

Intern Clarisse Bushman is working on a horticulture project with students at Strasburg High School and intern Sarah Kohrs is mentoring boy scouts to help them earn their gardening badge. Also intern Richard Howell has taken on the task of up-dating our computer green helpline system. Thanks to all of you for jumping right in and helping with our MG projects.

We finally have the Mt Jackson Rain Garden project in good shape. We had difficulty finding suitable work days and of course the spring rains often left several inches of water standing in the garden. Hopefully now that we have everything under control and it's looking good we can keep it that way with just occasional weeding.

MOBILE APP FOR LANDSCAPE AND NURSERY PROFESSIONALS from Dr. Amy Fulcher, University of Tennessee Plant Scientist, 865-974-7152, amyfulcher@tennessee.edu

Green Industry professionals often find themselves in the field needing immediate access to pest and plant disease information and plant care recommendations. Or, they need to be alerted when destructive pests emerge in their area. Thanks to a collaborative effort of horticulturists, entomologists and plant pathologists at seven land-grant universities, now there's an app for that. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, working with Clemson, North Carolina State University, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, University of Maryland and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, have developed the first IPM mobile app for nursery growers, landscapers, arborists, Extension agents and students that includes the major horticultural practices and disease and insect recommendations. IPMPro will streamline pest management decision-making, employee training, and will make complying with state pesticide recordkeeping regulations easy. The mobile app is available for iPhone, iPad, and Android. Built by horticulture and pest management experts in cooperation with growers and landscapers, IPMPro was built for USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 4 through 8, which include 22 states from west of the Mississippi River, east and north to Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and south to the Gulf Coast.

IPMPro is like having an expert in the field with the user to:

- Receive text-like alerts for time-sensitive pest issues and plant care, date adjusted to location
- Consult images, pest life cycle, and management options for major pests of woody plants
- Reference how-to information and images of cultural practices
- Obtain pesticide recommendations for major diseases and insects
- Utilize built-in pesticide recordkeeping for documentation while outdoors
- Track pests and cultural practices in calendar view or a chronological list

- Assist in educating new employees and experienced professionals

This is the first application of its kind developed in the United States, and it was made possible through funding by the UT Institute of Agriculture through its Extension and AgResearch units. For less than a subscription for non-interactive tools like books and magazines that professionals currently use, IPMPro is \$24.99. For more information on the application, visit <http://www.IPMProApp.com>. Coming soon for homeowners - IPMLite.

This is a photo of an early instar black swallowtail caterpillar, also called a parsleyworm. It becomes green, black, yellow, and white in later stages. This caterpillar feeds on dill, parsley, fennel and other members of the carrot family. Another common plant host is rue. It is a caterpillar that your customers might see in their herb



garden.

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

Have you noticed the spikes of blue flowers along the roadside or in fields or invading your garden? They are Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) a member of the Borage family (*Boraginaceae*). Typical of the Borage family, the plant is bristly-hairy and the flowers start pink and turn blue as they age and they arise on scorpioid cymes. A cyme is a flower cluster with the end flower opening first. Scorpioid means it unfurls like a scorpion tail.

The type plant for *Boraginaceae* is Borage (*Borago officinalis*). It is a useful member of the herb garden. The leaves added to salad dressing impart a cucumber flavor. The leaves need to be chopped or ground because they are so bristly. The flowers, one of the few blue edibles, are sweet and serve as decoration for desserts or punches.

Another herb garden member of the family is Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) grown for medicinal purposes. It is native to Europe. Wild Comfrey (*Cynoglossum virginianum*) is native here. A large population can be seen in the woods up the hill in Sky Meadows State park and along the Allen Trail in Andy Guest/Shenandoah River State Park.

Two *Boraginaceae* are familiar: Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), and Virginia Bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*). Both fit the family description though the Bluebell is not bristly.

Not all *Boraginaceae* are blue. A yellow-orange native, Hoary Puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*) can be seen on Cedar Creek battlefield. It is called Hoary because of the whitish appearance on the leaves because of the hairs. Puccoon is a Native American name for a plant they used to make dyes.