

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

September, 2013

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **September 15, 4:00 pm** Speaker: Carolyn Farouki, who will be hosting the meeting at her home and will be leading tours of her gardens Carolyn lives in Clarke County.

Directions: From the intersection of US 17/50 and US 340, go north on US 340. From Berryville go south on US 340. Turn onto VA-255/Bishop Meade Rd towards Millwood. Take the first right to stay on VA-255/Bishop Meade Rd. Go 1.6 miles and turn left onto Clay Hill Rd. Go 0.6 miles to 574 Clay Hill Rd on the right.

- **October 20, 4:00 pm** – MG Richard Stromberg will speak on, “Native Plants” at the Valley Farm Credit Site Bureau located in Winchester.
- **November 17, 4:00 pm** Annual Election to be held at the Warren County Government Center located in Front Royal.

MG SHIRT ORDER by Carolyn Wilson

I will be placing an order for our MG shirts soon. Interns, remember that if you have finished (and reported your 50 hours) by October 1, you will get a short sleeve polo shirt free, however I still need your name and size. Also you may want to order other styles. Since I will not order the shirts again until April, any intern who has done at least 35 hours can order shirts also. However they may not wear the shirts until they have completed the 50 hours.

T shirt	\$8.50
Short sleeve polo	\$12.50
Long sleeve polo	\$15.50
Sweat shirt	\$14.50

Please add \$2 for sizes XXL and larger

Make the check to NSVMGA and mail it to Carolyn Wilson, PO Box 70, Mt Jackson Va 22842
Mark the SIZE and STYLE desired on your check.

I MUST HAVE YOUR ORDER BY OCTOBER 3rd

UPCOMING EVENTS REMINDERS by Lynn Hoffman

- Christmas Decorating at Belle Grove: The MG will decorate Sally's Room and the reception area this year at Belle Grove. If you are interested please let Lynn Hoffmann know at gwendydog@gmail.com
- Seed collecting: Start saving your seeds and package some up for the Blandy Seed Exchange in January. Donna Downing will be the contact with Blandy. The exchange will be in January 2014.

VOLUNTEER COODINATOR'S REPORT by Susan Garrett

I hope you are enjoying the beginning of fall as our gardens start to wind down from their spring and summer show of abundance and fruitfulness. Now we can look forward to enjoying the cool weather and wonderful Virginia autumn colors, and it won't be too long before we will be putting our gardens to bed for the winter.

Speaking of gardens, I thought it might be helpful if I occasionally use the Newsletter to feature one of our NSVMGA projects. Many of us have never seen the Millwood Community Garden, a Clarke County project, and I'd like to share some information about it in this edition of the Newsletter.

The Millwood Community Garden project takes place in the village of Millwood, an area of Clarke County with a diverse population demographic. The project leader is Mary Flagg, who wrote the following description:

"The Millwood Community Garden is in its third year. Our first year was the toughest. We found it necessary to schedule workdays to develop consistency. Our garden is right next to the Millwood Post Office, so a lot of people see us, but not a lot of people volunteer. We continually greet everyone and keep them informed. Customers expect to see us now on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to noon. Eventually, you have repeat volunteers who show up consistently. We have a community contact, who happens to be president of the Millwood Community Association. She gets the word out thru the newsletters, flyers and word of mouth. The word has gotten out to the local groups, like garden clubs, boys and girls clubs, and, of course, master gardeners. We have also solicited donations in the community which really helps get the word out. Our garden has grown from a vegetable garden to a beautiful vegetable garden with lots of flowers and a peaceful sitting area for everyone to enjoy."

Perhaps the pictures tell the story best, so I am sharing several of them with you.

So many wonderful things are done by NSVMGA members. Don't you think we need to do more to celebrate the wonderful work done by our amazing volunteers? I would love your suggestions on how we might do that.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Helen Lake

The Dog Days of Summer seem to have come and gone in more rainy days than the meltingly hot and dry ones of years past. My tomato plants are looking pitiful. Untidy rows of sagging eight foot high hulks with half ripened or slowly ripening heirlooms. I blame it on the rain this year. But maybe from a practical side, I should plant less heirlooms and more sturdy and resistant types next year—one more item to add to my notebook of lessons learned. The sprawling remnants, now dry and yellowing, of my cucumber vines are ready to be torn out and replaced with rows of seeds for beets, radishes and lettuce. There's nothing like watching these cool weather plants burst out of the ground in a matter of weeks. Magic!

Our August member gathering at John Stevens home continued our summer tradition of very well attended monthly meetings and weather that cooperated for a lovely gathering on the lawn. Being a succinct presenter, John described to us the history of his home (Civil War) and the history of the surroundings buildings on his property, such as the reconstructed log barn that sits alongside his greenhouse and orderly raised vegetable garden beds. Groups of us took off to tour his spring house, the new landscaping in the front yard and his reorganized raised beds with herbs and seasonal veggies.

Our gracious hosts' wrap-around porch provided the perfect venue for our potluck buffet, which included grilled sausage and hamburgers that John cooked up for us—another great summer gathering catching up with fellow MG'ers from across our five counties.

Our September monthly meeting will be at Carolyn Farouki's home. She has graciously offered to host our meeting in her gardens and will be providing us tours of her flower, herb and vegetable garden areas for our educational presentation. Please bring your own chair to use for the meeting.

Clarke County will be hosting this month's meeting and bring along table(s) for setting up our potluck buffet afterwards.

FREDERICK COUNTY COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Angeliki Hutchinson

October 5, we will be working in the Frederick Douglass Rain Garden with a group from Handley High School. The garden is actually beginning to look like a garden. Thanks for all the help .

Frederick County is tenting for Bland's Arbor Fest. If you are interested in helping October 12 and 13 please email Angie (angelikihutchinson@comcast.net). I also need someone to help me set up on Friday.

The emails have gone out for Frederick County's Greenline signup for October. It is great learning and teaching morning for everyone.

PAGE COUNTY COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Lesley Mack

We have had some interesting and answerable questions this summer: copper spots on lawns, invasive lawn weeds, anthracnose on 100ft. sycamore trees, unhealthy maple tree transplants, and when to replant tulip bulbs. Anyone taking a census on the types of questions each year?

Elka, Tom and Lesley helped the Hill and Valley Garden Club take in the Page Co. Fair flowers at the adult horticultural exhibit. Some first time exhibitors and many "over the top" beautiful specimens: cactus, dahlias, lush velvet looking zinnias...oh my!

I have chained myself to my desk to prepare for a "Garden Illusions" workshop/presentation I am giving at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley this October. There will be a 'walk about' to see the illusions at Glen Burnie, the presentation, and a workshop on "how to illusion" your own garden. (No magic hats necessary!)

We are seeing mantis egg cases (China, thanks Lynn), and no stink bugs— knock on wood, y'all.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Carolyn Wilson

Things are starting to wind down now. All our children's programs (at the library, 4-H camp and FFA) are finished. We will have at least one more session at both the Strasburg and Woodstock farmer's market. Our in office greenline will continue through mid October then switch to computer only mode.

The big project at the end of August was the Shenandoah county fair. Five eager (but probably sleepy) MG were at the fair at 7am on August 23 to help the gardening public correctly enter their specimens and assist the judges. We had the first nightly MG info booth that evening and continued each night through August 30. I always volunteer for that first night because I love to watch the children rush in to see if their entry has a ribbon. It's great to see so many eager junior gardeners!

The adults (especially those that do not garden) are always impressed when I point out that the fine specimens they are viewing are in the junior division. Of course there is also an adult division and one of the entries was a large, delicious looking cantaloupe. I'm not confessing to anything, but if it turns up missing remember the previous sentence. I love cantaloupes but the ones I grow have almost no taste and aren't worth eating! Hope that everyone has had a chance to enjoy one of the county fairs this year. For me, it's always an important event in the Shenandoah Valley.

CLARKE COUNTY REPORT by Mary Craig

The Clarke Master Gardeners have a table at the Farmers' Market in Berryville every Saturday morning from 9:00am to noon. Thanks to all our gung-ho 2013 Interns and veteran MGs we have all the slots filled through September, only four weeks in October left to fill. If you would like to sign up for a shift in October, let me know at mcorneliac@centurylink.net or (540) 635-0688. There is live music and plenty of wonderful vendors. Pets are welcome, too, but dogs must be on a leash. I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer and is ready for fall.

We had a booth at the Clarke County Fair from Tuesday, August 13th through Saturday, August 17th. We got bumped over a spot, and we're thinking next year we will set up Monday through Saturday, so we don't get moved from our great corner spot. Traffic was light at the beginning of the week, but picked up as the week went on. I hope you got a chance to go to the fair (or one in your county). It's always a great time, with rides, games and plenty of animals. There are events like the tractor pull, demolition derby, lawnmower races and various rodeo events, as well as great entertainment. This year the headliners were Florida Georgia Line and Dean Crawford & the Dunn's River Band. But my favorite thing is the Red Velvet Funnel Cake. If you haven't tried it I hope you get a chance to soon.

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING by Mary Craig

If you missed the meeting at John Stevens' house, you missed a good time. He has a very nice place in Winchester.

John gave a brief history of his house and grounds.

Carolyn Wilson gave a brief history of the intern t-shirts. Each class was asked to wear their intern shirts to the meeting.

The Class of 2005 members posed for a group shot. We had a brief meeting then got to roam around John's gardens and eat a great meal. John cooked hamburgers, hotdogs, and brats on the grill to go with our usual potluck food. There was also beer and wine for those who chose to partake. It was wonderful weather, a little overcast and not too hot.



Members of the Class of 2005 pose for a picture: (l to r) Janet Keithley, Suzanne Boag, Elke Thomas, John Stevens, Helen Lake and Mary Craig

RAIN BARREL RAFFLE by Mary Craig

We sold \$47 in tickets at GardenFair. We sold a few tickets at the Clarke County Fair. The barrel will be raffled off at Arborfest at Blandy, so hopefully we can sell more tickets there. This year's barrel was donated by Cy Haley and is one of the blue barrels with a screen top.



If you know anyone who would like to buy a rain barrel, you can put them in touch with me (mcorneliac@centurylink.net) and I will get the information to them.

This would have been a great year to have a rain barrel out to catch all that rain. I saw a picture from another MG group and I would like to talk my husband into building a smaller version of this for just 4 barrels. (Don't tell him,

he has enough on his honey-do list). Wouldn't this be great? Just hook up to the spigot and go. All 8 are piped together underneath, and with the white paint they blend right in with the building. Anyway, I hope all your gardens did well this summer and I hope to see you all at the September meeting.

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

If you don't mow too often, orchids may appear in your yard, as they did in mine:

