

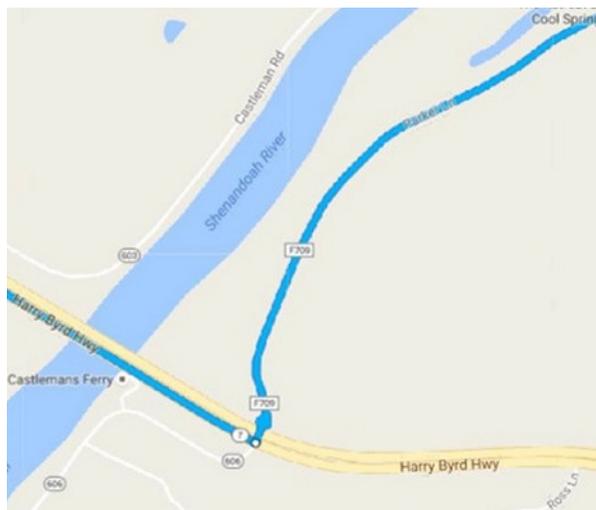
NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

- **Sunday, September 17, 4pm, Shenandoah University Cool Spring Campus, Gene Lewis, Cool Spring Site Manager.** The process of going native at Cool Spring (formerly a golf course now a gorgeous natural habitat complete with walking/biking trails). The Cool Spring Lodge has handicap access via a ramp for anyone who has difficulty with stairs. MGs will be awarded “Celebrate Us” pins for years served as Northern Shenandoah Valley MGs (5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 year pins). I hope you all will be able to attend and celebrate the many years we have collectively served as Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners. Clarke County Master Gardeners will be hosting this meeting. **Please remember to wear your nametag/badge, and bring a dish, dessert, or finger foods to share for the potluck.** Also, weather permitting, the potluck will take place outdoors under the Pavilion where there are six picnic tables, but not enough seating for all of us, so **you might consider bringing a chair.**

More about Shenandoah River Campus at Cool Spring at <https://www.su.edu/cool-spring/>

Directions to Shenandoah University Cool Spring Campus, 1400 Parker Lane, Bluemont VA 20155: From VA-7 turn north just on the east side of the Shenandoah River Bridge. **Parker Lane, approximately 1.5 miles long, is a narrow, a rough road – please consider carpooling to reduce traffic.**



- **Sunday, October 15, 2pm, Weber's Nursery, Frederick**, indoors/outdoors. Peter Weber Right tree, right place
- **Sunday, November 2pm, 11/19, Warren County Govt Center**, President/Volunteer Coordinator, Election/Business Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Saturday, September 9, 10–11am**, NSVMGA's Seed Exchange @ Blandy Kick-off Planning Meeting at the Fort Valley Nursery Café
- **Sunday, September 10, Belle Grove Barn Series: Lavender:** Crafting & Growing (\$25 per person) lead by Rose Fairman—a great class with fresh and dried lavender and tips on how to use all the wonderful plants that Rose has grown. Be inspired to plant some in your garden and come see how to use them in all sorts of crafts and cooking. Counts toward education hours. Sign up at www.bellegrove.org.
- **Wednesday, September 20, 9-11am Belle Grove Teaching Garden fall clean up.** Lynn Hoffman will teach how to cut back the herbs and perennials in the garden and how to make it ready for the winter. Meet at the Garden at Belle Grove. The gals that helped Larry Haun throughout the year will be there to help. We can gather seeds and keep some and send the rest to Elaine for the seed exchange. If you have any questions, please email Lynnat gwendydog@gmail.com.
- **Sunday, October 22, Belle Grove Barn Series: Williamsburg Holiday Display** (\$30 per person — \$25 for class; \$5 for supplies) Williamsburg style swags and mantle decorations, a

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class filled with dried flowers and fruit and citrus. Counts toward education hours. Sign up at www.bellegrove.org.

- **Monday, October 23, 6–9pm Seed Packaging Workshop**, Specht Residence, Woodstock. Pizza will be provided.
- **Wednesday, November 1, 9am–Noon, Seed Packaging Workshop**, Blandy Farm in the Dining Room.
- **Saturday, November 11, 9am–Noon, Seed Packaging Workshop**, Specht Residence, Woodstock. Muffins and coffee will be provided.
- **Sunday, November 12, 2pm Everlasting Flowers Workshop, Belle Grove, Sally's Room.**
- **Tuesday, November 28, Belle Grove decorating.**

2017 GARDENING SERIES AT NSV REGIONAL LIBRARIES by Sara Carp

Come learn from your fellow MGs. Entrance is free to all. For more information, contact sarigardens@gmail.com. You get MG education hours for attending any talks. or see (for the Handley series) or countylib.org (Shenandoah County series).

- **Frederick County/Handley Regional Libraries** <http://handley.libcal.com/event/2992655>
 - **Success in the Garden** Bowman Library, 871 Tasker Rd., Stephens City
 - **Saturday, September 9 @ 2 pm: How Not to See Your Neighbors: Successful Tree Screens**, by Sari Carp
- **Clarke County/Handley Regional Library System**
 - **Sustainability in the Garden** Barns of Rose Hill (sponsored by the library), 95 Chalmers Court, Berryville
 - **Saturday, October 21 @ 2 pm: Happy Soil, Happy Plants**, by Elaine Specht
- **Shenandoah County Library System**
 - **Adventures in Gardening** This series will alternate monthly between the main county library in Edinburg (514 Stoney Creek Blvd.) and the branch library in New Market (160 E Lee St.). Fort Valley Nursery has kindly agreed to donate topic- or season-appropriate plants to be raffled off as door prizes each month, and there will be monthly seed and seedling giveaways as well!
 - **Saturday, October 7 @ 10:30 am (Edinburg): Bring Your Containers Indoors! Grow Fresh Herbs, Greens and More for the Winter**, by Paula Brownlee
 - **Saturday, November 4 @ 3 pm (New Market): Happy Soil, Happy Plants**, by Elaine Specht
 - **Saturday, December 2 @ 10:30 am (Edinburg): Joy to Your Houseplants: Tips for the Holidays and Beyond**, by Carolyn Wilson

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A NSVMGA MEMBER by Cy Haley, President

A lot of discussion lately has been about being a member of the NSVMGA organization. What exactly does it mean to be a member?

Membership in the Association is elective once you become a Master Gardener. The association was set up almost 25 years ago as a venue for fellow MGs to interact since our unit covers a five county area. As time went on and more Master Gardeners were certified the need for developing and organizing projects while establishing guidelines was evident. The establishment of a board and committee chairs was created by the membership. Bylaws and guidelines were also developed by the membership. The members have maintained and

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revised the bylaws and guidelines as needs arose and continue to do so today with the concurrence of our VCE agents. The structure of the association has enabled the NSVMGAs to coordinate and fund VCE's Master Gardener programs when we were without a horticulture extension agent.

Being a NSVMGA member awards you continuing education at monthly meetings by bringing in interesting and informative speakers, field trips to gardens and industries that help to further our horticulture knowledge, attending workshops and classes sponsored by the association, funding for projects, and developing lifelong friendships while working and learning from MGs with diverse backgrounds.

However, not everyone likes to work under bylaws and guidelines, do not bring grievances to the board to try to resolve, or openly air grievances towards other association members and the association as a whole.

If you have an issue or concern with the association and would like to discuss it please reach out to a committee head, your county coordinator, or a board member. We want you to know your importance to the association and want your volunteering experience to be as productive and enjoyable as possible.

Below are the objectives for the Association as written in the bylaws:

Objectives--The objectives of the Association shall be:

1. To enhance and supplement the Consumer Horticulture programs of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VT), and Virginia State University (VSU) and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE);
2. To disseminate to Virginia's residents sound research-based information on horticultural practices and techniques in accordance with standards approved by the Cooperative Extension Services of VT and VSU;
3. To extend Master Gardeners' knowledge of and interest in horticulture and related activities;
4. And to provide opportunities for its members to meet and associate with others who have similar horticultural interests.
5. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.



The Communications and Publicity Committee helps with press coverage and fosters communication with other Master Gardener Associations, with our communities and within our Association? by Susan Garrett

The Communication Committee process is designed to help ensure coverage of public events. Individual project/event chairs are responsible for providing accurate information in a timely manner, as well as for providing draft text for the Communications committee to distribute. This process is used for long term planning and larger projects. Any localized or onetime event should use this as a reference. Process steps may overlap, and times for feedback are flexible. Not every step is necessary every time. This is just a general process.

1. **A Publicity Lead is assigned from the Communications Committee for each project/event.** This lead is responsible for ensuring that the information provided by the individual Project/Event Chair is put into a standard format and distributed to media contacts. The Publicity Lead should communicate with the Project/Event Chair.

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- 2. The Publicity Lead drafts a website page (90+ days before event)**
 - a. Drafts website project page (first year draft; subsequent years update).
 - i. "Save the Date" fine to start
 - ii. Add details as event approaches
 - b. Sends to individual Project/Event Chair with 5 days for feedback.
 - c. Sends to Publicity Chair in Word format to add to website. Attaches photos separately as .jpg files.
- 3. The Publicity Lead formats flyers (90+ days before event)**
 - a. Formats information if needed. If final is provided by individual Project/Event Chair, move to **step b**. If only text is provided, clean up.
 - b. Sends to Elena Lycas, when available, for design improvements.
 - c. Sends to Project/Event Chair with 5 days for feedback.
 - d. Return in both Word (when available) and PDF to individual Project/Event Chair for printing. Printing should be done at an VCE office. Printing costs are only authorized by a pre-approved budget or by the Project/Event Chair. Reimbursement or payment will be made by the Association Treasurer.
 - e. Use "flyer notebook" at meetings and work with county coordinators to get flyers put up in all 5 counties.
- 4. The Publicity Lead distributes press release for free ads (60 & 30 days before event)**
 - a. Formats press release content to our standard.
 - b. Sends to individual Project/Event Chair with 5 days for feedback.
 - c. Sends to Mark Sutphin for final review with 5 days for feedback.
 - d. Sends out press release in both Word & PDF format to media outlets via individual emails. Copy to the email address NSVMGA.info@gmail.com on emails to help build up our press and contacts archive. This step may require multiple rounds. In person meetings and phone calls are also options. Each round should be completed within 14 days.
- 5. Other Items**
 - a. Brochures, handouts, etc., are the responsibility of individual Project/Event Chairs. Project/Event Chairs should list locations or areas where information will be distributed and forward that information to the Publicity Chair.
 - b. Emails to the MG Unit via VMS should be done by the Project/Event Chair listing all the information on date, time, location etc.

CLARKE COUNTY REPORT by Ginny Smith

We wrapped up our projects for the year with an informational table at the Clarke County Fair. We had a free raffle of stationery with pressed flower greeting cards made by Master Gardeners. We also gave out numerous handouts, free seed packets, fertilizer packets, and apples grown by our own Ann Levi. Over seventy contacts were recorded.

Members will be helping with "The Gathering" in October.

A wrap up and planning meeting will be scheduled for December.

FREDERICK COUNTY REPORT by Helen Lake

Walking down our gravel road in the mornings for the newspaper always provides me with a wonderful panorama of our 'valley views'. During that time I may spot a clump of wild phlox, a scattering of Queen Anne's Lace and a bunny rabbit who sits frozen in the middle of the field, hoping I haven't seen it. You know the saying, "It's the little things in life?" Allowing myself the time to take in the sights, sounds and smells of my valley views remind me what a beautiful

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place it is that I now call 'home' in the Shenandoah Valley. As one season turns into the next, my valley views will continue to inspire.



As with the end of Summer and beginning of Fall, several programs are resuming while others will be coming to an end in September.

The Lowe's Help Table in the city of Winchester will resume for the Fall on the 9th and 23rd of September. John Kummer has agreed to return as the project leader. Project has been posted on VMS calendar for folks to sign up for. Shifts are on Saturdays from 9-12pm. Any questions, please contact John at johnkummer@att.net.

Old Town Farmer's Market MG Help Table will have its last month on September 9th and 23rd from 9 until 1pm. Volunteers are needed especially for the 9th of September. This is our first year as part of the Farmer's Market on the walking mall of Winchester and has provided us a wonderful opportunity to be part of a community of non-profits and agricultural vendors interacting with the public face to face. Any questions, please contact project leader Shan Kilby at kilby.shan@gmail.com

The Fremont Nursery Fall After School Program has started programs on Tuesdays for four year olds from 2:45-3:30pm and school age children from 3:30-4:30pm. Project Leader Mary Mitchell Turner has developed highly creative and educational activities, along with her cadre of dedicated MG volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering or just joining in for a session, contact Mary at valleystreammarketplace@gmail.com.

Day Trippin' Program has officially debuted its first event in August. See the article below by program co-chair Shan Kilby describing the Walking the Gardens of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley.

Check out the VMS calendar for September and sign up for the Day Tripping event to Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland to see the Aquatic Garden, Rose Garden, Japanese Garden, Trial Garden, Rain Garden & Woodland Walk. Gardens are all free to public. A special "Wings of Fancy Live Butterfly & Caterpillar Exhibit" in the South Conservatory has a minimal \$8 fee per person. Enjoy the fellowship of Master Gardeners on a road trip. Family members are welcome. Master Gardeners from other counties are welcome to join in on the day trippin'.

Thank you to the Frederick County Project Leaders who have sent in their information I've requested in anticipation of the NSVMGA Program Overview on the September 9th. The Project Leaders who have yet to submit your info, please do so no later than the September 7th. In representing Frederick County programs, your information is key in my ability to address any and all questions from NSVMGA leadership during the review and, most importantly, if you would like your programs to continue in 2018.

We can be proud of a very full year of substantive projects and programs in Frederick County. In anticipation of holding the end of the year county meeting (circa mid- November), think of areas where we may have 'not gone before' or groups or organizations we should consider

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reaching out to in our mission as Master Gardeners. Note those brilliant ideas down and bring them to the meeting. I have two I'd like to float for discussion for 2018.

FREDERICK COUNTY DAY TRIPPIN' by Shan Kilby

Wednesday evening, August 23rd, the Day Trippin' group enjoyed a beautiful stroll thru the gardens at Glen Burnie, adjacent to the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester. We had light refreshments and walked the property discussing several of the recent changes made. Some areas had dramatic transitions as they work to replace older diseased specimens and consider public use of the former private residence. We had a brief meeting to review plans for upcoming trips to Brookside Gardens, Sky Meadows State Park and Lewis Ginter. Angie Hutchinson, Lori Nuri-Kesner, and Carolyn Rutherford have taken the lead in researching details for these trips. Look for future updates as we work out the details for more "Day Trippin'".



SHENANDOAH COUNTY REPORT by Sharon Bradshaw

Our county fair ended September 1, with 290 total contacts, a record number for us. Our information table is always in the exhibition building and everyone comes through to check out the ribbons. Congratulations, Belinda Palmer, for your two ribbons for crocheted work. This was the 100th anniversary of the fair and there were crowds each evening, even in the rain on the last night. A big thank you to all who volunteered to staff the MG table.

Our Green Help Line has continued to be busy. This summer, we've had several residents whose contact information was either a phone number or mailing address—no email. When this occurs, we count on our local VCE office to print out the appropriate publication and mail it to the client. After today's in-office session, we gave the receptionist our third request to be mailed out this week.

Corhaven Graveyard continues to host community groups who visit to learn more about the site and, frequently, to help with planting donated flowers or shrubs. Early this month a home schooled group will return for another workshop.

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The Edinburg Ole Time Festival is Sept. 16 and 17. Alice Findler, project lead, will be staffing a storm water bio-filtration information table between the restored Edinburg Mill and the rain garden. The garden's purpose is to help halt erosion and filter polluted runoff from the parking lot into Stoney Creek, which feeds the North Fork of the Shenandoah. Her display will focus on improving water quality for the homeowner.

GARDENING IN THE VALLEY SYMPOSIUM by Lynn Hoffmann

Planning for the 2018 Gardening in the Valley Symposium has started. Save Saturday March 3, 2018. It will be held at Shenandoah University. We have 5 speakers this year:

- Ira Wallace of the Southern Seed Exchange
- Sandy Lerner from Upperville to speak on Farm to Table topics
- Dr. Tim McCoy from Tech will lecture on Solitary Pollinators
- Dr. James McDuffie will speak on garden design based on his travels, showing how to use plants that are in our same zone but utilized in historic gardens of the world
- Wendy Kiang-Spray, an author and Maryland MG, who lectures on growing and cooking Chinese vegetables.

We will have books by the authors for purchase as well as some garden related vendors. We have a great goody bag planned and of course the great lunch and snacks provided by SU kitchen. Association members will get a discount rate of \$55 if they give cash or check to Bob Gail. Nonmembers or anyone who chooses to use PayPal for their registration will pay \$65. More information will be posted on the website.

And remember this event is our annual drive for the Scholarship fund for High School Seniors. Any funds we collect will go toward this wonderful cause.

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP AT BELLE GROVE by Lynn Hoffmann.

It's September and we are already planning Christmas decorating at Belle Grove. A workshop for all MG Association members at Belle Grove will be on Sunday, November 12 starting at 2pm in Sally' room. The class will give you 2 education hours and you will learn about everlasting flowers that you can grow in your garden and use in holiday displays. This year we will make hanging, moss covered globes that you can suspend from your ceiling or mount and use like a topiary. Again, I hope that everyone will make two, and leave one for Belle Grove as we prepare to decorate on November 28. Please email me if you plan on attending so I can get enough material together. Bring glue guns if you have them. I am also looking for embroidery hoops that you would like to donate for the class.

BARN SERIES by Lynn Hoffmann

We have full classes for the last two Barn Series Workshops. Lavender Crafts on Sept 10 will be conducted by Rose Fairman and the Williamsburg style Holiday Swag and Crescent Workshop by Lynn Hoffmann is full.

We will decide if we want to do Barn Series Workshops next year very soon. So if you think you are interested in teaching or assisting please let me know. Email me at gwendydog@gmail.com

PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS by Lynn Hoffmann

We are getting new handouts ready for the printers. Bookmarks and rulers and any community talks or holidays events that you are planning will be ready for the Gathering in October. We will be advertising upcoming events like the Seed Exchange at Blandy, The 2018 Intern Class, and the Gardening in the Valley Symposium. All these events have flyers that need to be displayed

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throughout the 5 county region. If you think you can take flyers and put them in business places, gyms, church groups, PTA's etc., please do so. If you would like to help the Publicity Committee get the word out, email me at gwendydog@gmail.com.

We will be updating the webpage so check it out to see all the events that are planned.

SHARE THE BEAUTY OF SAVING SEEDS BY HELPING PREPARE FOR THE SEED EXCHANGE by Elaine Specht

As I prepared to give several talks on seed saving this summer and fall—through the Library Talks and for several Shenandoah County garden clubs—I came across this quote that perfectly sums up what I find amazing about seeds:

The beauty of seeds is rivaled only by their purpose. Within the confines of its seed coat, every seed holds a connection to the future and to the past. The embryonic plant that rests within a seed contains not only the promise of what is to come as it is nurtured and grows from a young seedling into a mature plant, but also the history and traits that properly saved seeds pass down from generation to generation.

— The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving, Jared Zystro, Micaela Colley, edited by Lee Buttala and Sharyn Siegel

It isn't often that a gardening book can evoke quite so much emotion, but those words really touched me.

If you would like to learn about the joy of saving seeds (or already know all about it), help us prepare for NSVMGA's Seed Exchange @ Blandy:

- Come to the Kick-off Planning Meeting at the Fort Valley Nursery Café, Sept. 9, 10–11am. All ideas are welcome.
- Save seeds from your own garden. You can clean and package them yourself or get them to me, and we'll do the prep work at one of three Seed Packaging Workshops.
- Help clean and package seeds at one or more Seed Packaging Workshop. You can bring your own seeds or help package what others have saved.
 - **Oct. 23, 6–9PM**, Specht Residence, Woodstock. Pizza will be provided.
 - **Nov. 1, 9AM–Noon**, Blandy Farm in the Dining Room.
 - **Nov. 11, 9AM–Noon**, Specht Residence, Woodstock. Muffins and coffee will be provided.
- Set Up: January 26, 2018, 3pm
- Seed Exchange Day: January 27, 2018, 10am-2pm (Volunteers will need to arrive a bit earlier and stay later for cleanup)

Need any more incentive? Take a look at some of the flowers (zinnias, marigolds, and love-in-a-mist) that I grew this year thanks to seeds I picked up at the Seed Exchange.



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EDITOR'S CORNER by Richard Stromberg

As summer winds down, the Aster Family (*Asteraceae*) takes over our flowering world. This was readily apparent on the August 13th Virginia Native Plant Society car caravan in the North Section of Shenandoah National Park. Skyline Drive was dominated by Sweet-scented Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*) and yellow composites, primarily three Sunflower species (*Helianthus*) and Green-headed Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*). Now the Asters and Goldenrods are taking over, and the Ragweeds, but you don't see them (Gesundheit!).



Back home the Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) have massed below the deck. And here come the Mums.

Not in the Aster Family, but still a delight, the Slender Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes lacera*) orchids have returned to our yard. I spotted eight plants.

