



Shenandoah Valley GARDENING



Newsletter of NSVMGA, the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

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NSVMGA is happy to announce its new **Native and Sustainable Habitat Garden for Flora and Fauna** program to encourage those in the Northern Shenandoah Valley to create habitat gardens. A habitat garden is earth friendly, critter tolerant, and pollinator friendly.

Using a checklist based on studies from Virginia Cooperative Extension and conservation organizations, you can ensure your gardens meet the needs to sustain flora and fauna. The checklist includes items such as growing native plants, composting, and keeping pests under control.

The checklist also allows you to review your gardens and determine how you are sustaining your area to be healthy year after year. This review will let you see if you are on the right track or if you need to make some adjustments to your backyard eco-system.

Once your **Native and Sustainable Habitat Garden for Flora and Fauna** is in place, you can submit the self-assessment checklist to NSVMGA for recognition. If you meet the minimum criteria, you will receive a certificate of recognition, and we'll add your name to our "Recognized Garden Habitat" webpage, along with a picture of your garden. You can also order a garden plaque to display.

If you'd like more information, please visit our website or email NSVMGA.info@gmail.com. You can also go directly to the [registration form](#) now and get started on your own garden habitat! Thank you for helping create sustainable gardens in the Northern Shenandoah Valley.



See page 11 for a calendar of gardening events.



From the President Cy Haley

education and teaching gardens, and libraries, as well as so much more, so be sure to check the calendar to see what's coming up and where you can volunteer or attend.

This year we're adding an autumn event called "Fall Round Up." This free event is at Belle Grove Plantation on September 16th and offers educational events and workshops for all, so mark that on your calendar, too.

We're also sharing a newly created program for the public and Extension Master Gardeners to have their gardens recognized as Habitat Gardens. If anyone is interested in this program, please contact us at our website, email, or message us on our Facebook page. We'll be glad to get you the information to help you get your garden recognized!

Do YOU want to be an Extension Master Gardener?

We will sponsor the 2019 class held in Front Royal. If you'd like to join the 120+ members in our Association, email us, and we'll get you information.

Extension Master Gardeners are an inspiration to their communities. They volunteer to help spread scientific, research-based gardening information that benefits and enhances the environment in which we all live. Our members do so much for the public and should be proud of the services they provide. They are each an inspiration to me. Happy Gardening! (Photo: Stacey Smith)

Well, another very successful GardenFest is under our belts! Everyone pitched in and did a phenomenal job for this year's event. Planning started last July and culminated in a terrific day with lots of plants, educational activities, and fun for all who attended, and the rain held off until after cleanup was over. A big round of applause for all of our great Extension Master Gardeners and Interns.

Summer is just beginning, and we have a lot of events still going on at our counties' farmers markets, fairs,

What is an Extension Master Gardener?

We asked our members to share in photo or word what it means to them to be an Extension Master Gardener.



Ask our members what these photos mean to them!
Photos by, from top left: Helen Lake, Lynn Hoffmann, Anonymous;
and bottom left: Stacey Smith, Mary Flagg, Mary Craig

MasterGardener
Helpful Community
Rewarding Committed Scientific
Sharing Beautiful Virginia
WorkTogether Research MyPeople
Confident Bloom Opportunities Partner Soil
Search Horticulture Steward Fun Biology
Harvest Trained Vegetables Gardening Extension
Educate Public Gardener Seeds Children
Earth Grass Flowers First-Rate Plants
Ecosystem Beauty Friends Passionate
Accomplishment
Enthusiastic Responsibility
Knowledge VCE
Garden
Cooperative

MG Educational Adventures Suzanne Boag

Education committee members continue planning learning events and fun excursions for NSVMGA.

In April, a group of Extension Master Gardeners visited [Ladew Topiary Gardens](#) in Monkton, Maryland. Members enjoyed a guided tour of amazing water features and unique topiary, as well as a tour of the Manor House. (Photo: Suzanne Boag)



Also in April, 50 members of NSVMGA and other volunteer organizations learned about the **Spotted Lanternfly**. 24 participants are also helping in the related banding project. (See our [Spring 2018 Newsletter](#) for more information on this invasive insect.)

In June, members toured and took part in a lavender craft at [White Oak Lavender Farm](#) in Harrisonburg, Virginia. (Photo: Cy Haley)



MG Educational Adventures are open to all Association members and guests. Adventures are planned to include continuing education time.

Education committee members are currently planning events for the rest of the year and into 2019. If you have ideas and would like to help plan, please contact committee chair Suzanne Boag through VMS or email.

Monthly Association Meetings Suzanne Boag

Extension Master Gardeners exist to help the public. NSVMGA supports its Extension Master Gardeners by providing them additional resources to excel in that work. One way it does this is with monthly Association meetings.

In addition to educational horticulture speakers, monthly meetings keep members informed on volunteer opportunities and provide those members with the connections and support of fellow Extension Master Gardeners. Meetings are a chance to relax and get to know each other and are followed by a potluck meal. NSVMGA Extension Master Gardeners are more than co-volunteers...they're fellow gardeners, friends, and really good cooks!

July 15, 2018, 4:00 p.m., at Warren County Government Center (220 N. Commerce St, Front Royal, VA 22630) – A speaker from Blue Ridge PRISM talks about invasive plants and PRISM's mission.

August 19, 2018, 4:00 p.m., at Blandy Library at the State Arboretum of Virginia (400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce, VA 22620) – Marie Majorav of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries talks about pollinator gardening.

September 16, 2018, 4:00 p.m., at Sunflower Cottage (150 Ridgemont Rd, Middletown, VA 22645) – Owner Billie Clifton talks about hops and fall plants.

Meetings are open to all Association members and earn Extension Master Gardeners a project hour and an education hour. Trainees and interns earn two project hours.

Fremont Street Nursery

Mary Turner

"Hands in the air when you're ready to garden" was the first direction for 20 school-age children at Fremont Street Nursery as Extension Master Gardeners launched the first of the 2018 summer garden series in June. Within minutes, forty gloved and ungloved hands, with and without tools, began to plant root crops and bush beans in the nursery garden. (Photo: Mary Turner)



Designed and created in 2017 by NSVMGA's Extension Master Gardeners, the 22 raised beds in the garden were made possible by funds from the United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Many of the school-age students prepared for this day with garden sessions after school every week since March. They checked the progress of spring-planted potatoes, peas, tomatoes and peppers, as well as strawberries, honeyberries, blackberries, and raspberries planted in 2017. Divided into teams, the students with garden experience first welcomed new team members. They then provided a guided tour through the garden. By the end of the session, newcomers and veterans alike had weeded beds and loosened soil. They planted beets, carrots, radishes, and purple, yellow, and green bush beans. Surplus produce is donated to Highland Food Pantry.

On June 12th, 18 four-year-old students were introduced to the garden and started their garden journals. They began to identify the vegetables and fruits of the garden, learned about the glove and tool baskets, and created a personal artwork for their first journal entry. VCE intern Cailin Orgen assisted. (Photo: Mary Turner)



The Fremont Summer Garden Program continues through school break and continues in the fall with after-school harvest and garden cleanup.

Off the Beaten Path

Elaine Specht

Whether one is travelling to Washington, DC, for business or pleasure, the Enid A. Haupt Garden, part of the Smithsonian Gardens program, offers a quiet respite from the city.

While many visitors to our nation's capital may be familiar with the Institute's museums located along the National Mall, they may not venture off the beaten path to experience the urban oasis behind the

"Castle," the Smithsonian's signature building that now houses the visitors center. Named for the benefactor, a former publisher of *Seventeen* magazine and patron of many horticultural endeavors, the 4.2-acre garden has three distinct spaces: the central Victorian-style parterre, with plantings that change with the seasons and symmetrical patterns that are redesigned every few seasons; the Moongate Garden, inspired by the 15th-century Temple of Heaven in China; and the Fountain Garden, modeled after the Alhambra, a 14th-century Moorish palace and fortress complex in Spain.

The Enid A. Haupt Garden is located between the Castle and Independence Avenue. It is surprisingly a rooftop garden, as it sits right above three other exhibit buildings belonging to the Smithsonian Institute: the National Museum of African Art, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, and the S. Dillon Ripley Center.

Learn more about all of the Smithsonian gardens, events, and tours at [Smithsonian Gardens](https://www.si.edu/gardens).



Seasonal Gardening Tips Elaine Specht

For Independence Day, why not consider some plantings with red, white, and blue? Although the “Old Glory” blue of the United States flag is hard to come by in nature, with some artistic license, there are a lot of options for creating a patriotic effect with annuals, native plants, or bulbs.

Annuals/Container Plants - For the shortest time commitment, select from the abundant annual options wherever you normally buy plants. With regular watering and fertilizer, annuals will bloom continuously throughout the summer whether planted in containers or in the ground. Shown at right are Geranium, Portulaca, and Petunia (red); Euphorbia and Bacopa (white); and Salvia, Heliotrope, and Angelonia (blue/purple). (Photo: Elaine Specht)



Native Plants - Creating a garden with native plants that bloom in red, white, and blue enables you to honor our national heritage by both plant selection and color. Native plants are indigenous to a specific region and have evolved to be well suited for the regional climate, soil, and moisture conditions. As a result, native plants tend to require less maintenance and provide important habitat for native wildlife, including beneficial insects. Serviceberry, Fringetree, Dogwood, and American Holly are all native trees that bloom in white. Combine them with several native shrubs, such as Winterberry, Virginia Sweetspire, and Highbush Blueberry, that bloom in white and then have either red or blue fruit. To start on a smaller scale, consider putting in native perennials, such as red Cardinal Flower, white Wild Quinine, and Blue Vervain, all of which bloom in summer and fall. See VCE's [Patriotic Gardens: Red, White, and Blue Native Plants](#) for more information and botanical names for the plants mentioned.

Bulbs - Spring is months away, but now is the time to order your spring-blooming bulbs for fall planting. A combination of red tulips, blue hyacinths, and white narcissus is just one option to prepare for a patriotic spring garden. See VCE's [Patriotic Gardens: Bulbs for a Red, White, and Blue Spring Garden](#).

More Information – Ready to get started? Find more plant ideas for a red, white, and blue theme in VCE's [Patriotic Gardens: How to Plant a Red, White, and Blue Garden](#).

Junior Master Gardener Program Lynn Hoffmann

The classroom is over for the students, and they are headed out to the garden to plant with a great turnout from children, parents, and Extension Master Gardeners. The planting was made possible by a donation of plants from Weber's Nursery.

This year's garden includes tomatoes, peppers, cabbages, and beans, as well as some herbs and potatoes. Last year's garden produced over 600 pounds of produce that went to the CCAP program, and our Junior Master Gardeners hope to donate even more this season. The students appreciate the help and education from all Extension Master Gardeners and 4-H Program Assistant Tammy Epperson. She organizes the classes and encourages everyone. (Photo: Lynn Hoffmann)



Donate your plants to GardenFest, and Extension Master Gardeners will help divide your perennials!

NSVMGA members will host a few plant digging parties this fall for homeowners in Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties. To reserve a date for a dig in your garden, email GardenFestPlants@gmail.com. A group of volunteers will dig up your plants. We pot up what we take and grow them for our GardenFest plant sale. **Get ready by taking photos now of plants in bloom and marking what you'd like us to dig.**

Thank you for donating your plants, and thank you to those who have donated in the past! Some of our community members donate yearly. Proceeds from GardenFest help fund VCE educational events sponsored by NSVMGA.

Extension Master Gardeners in the Community

Clarke County Ginny Smith

Clarke County Extension Master Gardeners set up an info booth the fourth Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Clarke County Farmers Market. Project Lead Pam Hough is happy to answer any questions from volunteers interested in joining her.

The next big event in the county is the Clarke County Fair. Extension Master Gardeners are in an info booth from August 12th through 18th. Contact Project Lead Ann Levi to volunteer. Members of the community are invited to stop by to get their gardening questions answered and to learn more about the VCE Master Gardener Program.

Page County Lesley Mack

Page County Extension Master Gardeners are available at an informational booth at the Luray Farmers Market on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month through October. All gardening questions are welcome. You can also find them at the Page County Fair August 18th – August 25th.

Warren County Jessica Priest-Cahill

Warren County Extension Master Gardeners hold their Help Desk Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 220 North Commerce, Ste 500, Front Royal. Residents of Warren County are invited to stop by with their home gardening questions, plant & insect ID, or other questions. You'll also find them at the Samuels Library garden and Warren Heritage Society/Belle Boyd gardens. Feel free to ask questions or even help them as they work!

Frederick County Mary Turner

Opportunities abound this summer to visit Frederick County Extension Master Gardeners in action.

The Old Town Winchester Farmers Market is staffed each Saturday morning with volunteers ready to provide on-the-spot gardening consultations and up-to-date information on pests, including the Spotted Lanternfly and Giant Hogweed. Can't come in person? Email questions and photos to GreenHelpLineFrederickCo@gmail.com.

Planning a visit to Belle Grove? Extension Master Gardeners tending the teaching garden are available on Tuesday mornings to discuss herbs and plants growing on this 1800s plantation.

Home-schooled 4-H Junior Master Gardeners and their families tend the CCAP Garden in Winchester weekly. Each year this group of dedicated gardeners donates hundreds of pounds of produce.

The Gardening Basics program for 4 to 12 year old students enrolled in the Fremont Street Nursery summer program will have three sessions in July at Timbrook Community Garden in Winchester. Extension Master Gardeners will be on hand to discuss the children's vegetable garden as well as the 2017-planted Pollinator Garden from 10:45 until noon on July 3, 17, and 31.

Extension Master Gardeners will host a booth at the NAACP Frederick Douglass Family Day on August 5. This all-day event is at Frederick Douglass Park, 598 N. Kent Street, Winchester.



Shenandoah County Sharon Rodriguez

Shenandoah County Extension Master Gardeners' Green Line stays busy with questions called in to the VCE office and during office hours on the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings in the county office building. In addition, questions come in during the Saturday Lowe's help desk (Photo: Stacey Smith) and the Strasburg Farmers Market. The Lowe's display is on the 4th Saturday morning each month through September, and it is located outside the garden shopping area. This year's booth includes children's activities with a horticultural theme. The Master Gardener help desk is at the Strasburg Farmers Market the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month through September. The market is at 181 West King Street.

Several groups are scheduled to visit Corhaven Graveyard in Quicksburg in the next few weeks to assist in planting donated native plants in the Monarch Waystation that is a part of the entrance area. The site is open to the public at no charge. Contact Master Gardener Sarah Kohrs at CorhavenGraveyard@gmail.com or 434-922-2029.

Extension Master Gardeners will visit the 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp with a horticultural-related activity. Past camps have featured programs on vegetables, seeds, and the water cycle.

In the Community, continued...

The New Market Rain Gardens are fulfilling their purpose this summer, handling runoff waters around the library branch's location. Project leaders and their committee have the gardens in great condition, and inside the library are brochures and plant maps of the gardens. The Edinburg Mill Rain Garden project will be highlighted during Edinburg's Ole Time Festival held September 21-23. An Extension Master Gardener information table will be in the parking lot of the Edinburg Mill.

The Shenandoah County Fair info booth is set up Monday, August 27, through Friday, August 31st, with Extension Master Gardeners onsite from 5:00 – 8:00 each evening.

For more information, email
NSVMGAnews@gmail.com

NSVMGA Thanks You!

Thank you to all our community members, vendors, and Extension Master Gardeners and Interns for making GardenFest 2018 a great success! Put **Saturday, June 1, 2019 on your calendar** for our next GardenFest and Master Gardener Plant Sale. See you then!

Extension Master Gardeners are at the Strasburg Community Garden

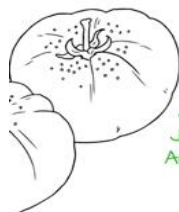
Strasburg Community Garden Upcoming Events



Education programs brought to you by the Strasburg Community Garden Partners and a grant from the Lord Fairfax Soil & Water Conservation District by way of the National Association of Conservation Districts.



@strasburgcommunitygarden



IN THE GARDEN SERIES
6:30 PM at Community Garden
(295 Park Rd. Strasburg)

July 13th: Insects: Good Guys & Bad Guys
July 18th: Farmscaping & Native Pollinators
August 1st: Pruning & Harvesting Techniques



WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS
6:30 PM at Pot Town Organics

July 27th: Waterwise Gardening
Sept 19th: Seed Saving

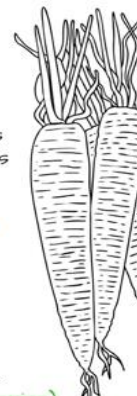
FOOD PROGRAMS

Food Preservation & Preparation
Helping Virginians Eat Smart & Be Active
August 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th (First workshop series)
September 11th, 18th, 25th, Oct. 2nd (Second workshop series)
Strasburg United Methodist Church
contact kimcosta@vt.edu 540-665-5699



COMMUNITY EVENT

9 am - 2 pm at Community Garden
(295 Park Rd. Strasburg)
Aug 18th: Harvest Celebration



For more info please call 540-465-2424 ext. 5 or email nick.livesay@lfswood.org
Dates are subject to change due to weather.

Home Gardening Questions Answered



Clarke

540-955-5164



Frederick

540-665-5699

GreenHelpLine.FrederickCo@gmail.com



Page

540-778-5794



Shenandoah

540-459-6140
GreenHelpLine@gmail.com



Warren

540-635-4549



Need Help? Contact Us!

Extension Master Gardeners are available year round through phone and email.

During the growing season, you'll also find us at farmers markets, info booths, county fairs, and help desks.

Get a plant or insect ID, find out how to get rid of an invasive plant, and learn the most current research-based information on any type of gardening and pest management.

We plan to be at the following events:

Clarke County

Clarke Farmers Market, Saturdays 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
July 28, August 25, September 22

Frederick County

Old Town Winchester Farmers Market, Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
July 7, 14, 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25; September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Page County

Luray Farmers Market, Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
July 14, 28; August 11, 25; September 8, 22

Shenandoah County

Strasburg Farmers Market, Saturdays 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
July 7, 21; August 4, 18; September 1, 15
Lowe's Woodstock Help Desk, Saturdays 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
July 28, August 25, September 22

Warren County

County Help Desk, Mondays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13, 20, 27; September 10, 17, 24

Hit-or-Miss Patio Gardening

Jennifer Huffman

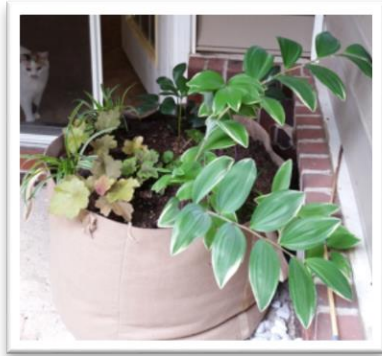
As discussed in the spring newsletter, I decided to use cloth pots or grow bags for my patio garden. I now have them planted and ready to grow.

Selection and Setup. I purchased two 27" round containers that are 18" deep. I put stones under the grow bags to prevent water stains on the concrete patio. I then poured in five bags of raised-bed garden soil to fill each one.

Planting. I planted Hellebores, Heuchera, Solomon's Seal, and Liriope in my shade corner. Because so much soil was used and since fabric pots are breathable, raised-bed garden soil was the best medium for my plantings. Other types of plants, containers, and sun may require different soils with different drainage needs.

Cornell University's [Outdoor Container Gardening](#) includes more information on choosing soil for your pots.

The Hellebores are small and will take a few years to fill in, though I'll hopefully get some buds next year. The Heuchera should fill out nicely by next spring. Liriope usually prefers sun, but it doesn't mind wet feet, so I'm optimistic it will grow well as a border plant. (Photo: Jennifer Huffman)



Watering. I thoroughly soaked the containers in the beginning, but I have only watered three times since, and it has been seven weeks! Though they do not get any rainfall, the soil has stayed moist due to the damp weather, and the flora is thriving. There's no set schedule for how often to water. Stick your finger down into the soil to see if it is dry. If so, it needs water. If it's damp, don't water. It doesn't matter if you haven't watered in several weeks. Read more with the University of Illinois publication [Watering](#). The Virginia Tech Department of Horticulture has a publication that can help young and old understand the importance of proper watering. Read [The Young Virginia Gardener Help Sheets: Watering](#).

I'm happy with the containers. They're holding their shape fairly well and draining properly. Most of all, the fabric combined with the demure shade-loving plants give an unrefined sophisticated look to the patio. Even my cat approves!

Gardening with Wildlife

Jessica Priest-Cahill

Watching birds can be rewarding for the whole family. Not only is it fun and relaxing to watch them, attracting them to your backyard can help manage insect populations and help the environmental balance.

Requirements. Like all wildlife, birds need four basic things from their environment:

- food,
- water,
- cover for protection from weather and predators,
- and space to raise young.

Adding bird feeders, birdbaths, and nesting boxes are all easy ways to meet those needs. In the long run, however, the most effective way to make your backyard more attractive to birds is to create habitat.

Create habitat. Include a diverse selection of plant materials, especially fruit and seed-bearing plants, in your garden to attract birds. Leave seed heads on perennials such as Black-eyed Susans and Purple Coneflower, and seed-eating birds will often pluck the heads clean. Grow Serviceberries and Blueberries, and the birds may eat the fruits before you know they are ripe.

Including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants of varying heights will provide layers, which provide shelter. Using native plants, for which our native birds have adapted, will also attract more birds.

If you wish to attract hummingbirds to your garden, they require a constant supply of flowers on which to feed from April through October. Add American Columbine, flowering Quince, red Bee Balm, Cardinal Flower, red Trumpet Vine, and native Coral Honeysuckle (photo: Stacey Smith), which are all good flowering plants for hummingbirds.



The Cornell Lab of Ornithology provides resources for identifying birds and information on bird habitats at [allaboutbirds.org](#). For more bird-friendly plant ideas, visit that site's [The Best Trees, Vines, And Shrubs To Plant For Birds: A Starter List](#) and the National Audubon Society's [10 Plants for a Bird Friendly Yard](#). Also check out The State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm's [Virginia Natives for Attracting Birds](#).

Gardening with Kids Jessica Priest Cahill

Worm Poop is Good for Your Garden! (or Vermicomposting with Kids)

Plants love worm poop...and kids love worms! Your children will love raising worms to collect their castings (worm poop) to fertilize potted plants or in the garden.

Vermicomposting, or worm composting, uses earthworms to convert organic waste to fertilizer. It is pretty easy and fun to do.

To get started, you'll need

- a plastic storage bin with secure lid,
- a drain tray (plastic lid or pan works),
- bedding,
- food, and
- worms.

It's best to use red wigglers for vermicomposting. *Eisenia foetida* is most commonly used. You can find reputable suppliers online. With about \$20 of worms, you can get started.

An adult should drill drainage holes in the bottom and top of the plastic storage container. (You may want to cover the holes with hardware cloth or screening to help prevent unplanned escapes.) You can use a clear container so your children can see what the worms are doing, but make sure the bin is kept in a dark place.

Place a drain tray, such as a lid or pan, under the bin so water can drain. Add damp shredded newspaper or leaves for bedding. Fill the bin 1/2 to 2/3 of the way with the bedding. Keep the bedding moist, like a sponge.

Feed your worms kitchen scraps, like most fruits, vegetables, bread, and coffee grounds. Do not feed your worms eggs, fat, meat, animal feces, or citrus fruits.

Worms need air, food, moisture, darkness, and warm (not too hot, not too cold) temperatures. If you provide these, in about 3-5 months your children can harvest their compost and start on a new batch.

For more information on vermicomposting with kids, visit the National Institute of Environmental Health Science's Kid's [Vermicomposting \(Making Good Use of Garbage\)](#) page or Cornell University's Cornell Compositing – Composting in School's [Worm Compositing Basics](#).

2018 Memorial Scholarships

Lynn Hoffmann

Congratulations to 2018 \$1,000 Memorial Scholarship Recipient Brandon McDonald (pictured with Extension Master Gardener Helen Lake). This fall Brandon enters Virginia Tech's Agricultural Technology Program and plans to eventually help manage his family's farm. Brandon has extensive volunteer experience, including serving as a firefighter.



Information about NSVMGA's 2019 Memorial Scholarships will be available this fall.

"Nature's Surprises" Children's Series Lynn Hoffmann

Extension Master Gardeners offer **free monthly workshops for children** at Bowman Library. Preregister at the library.

Each event is the third Wednesday of the month from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and includes a talk and hands-on workshop.

Scheduled talks are:

July 18, 2018 "Frogs and Toads, Oh, My!" Learn about Virginia's amphibians. You may even get to find some in the library pond!

August 15, 2018 "Water Busters, What Ya Gonna Do?" Learn the importance of water and how to protect our ponds and streams.

September 19, 2018 "Leave Room for The Fairies to Dance." Build a fairy house in the natural spaces around the library pond to help fairies and wee ones visit the pond.



Check the fall issue of our newsletter for future topics, including seeds, trees, and gourd ornaments.

Bowman Library is located at 871 Tasker Rd, Stephens City, VA 22655. (Photo: Stacey Smith)

Alert: Giant Hogweed

Stacey Morgan Smith

Virginia's first case of Giant Hogweed was recently verified in Clarke County. This noxious weed should not be touched.

Extension Master Gardener Mary Flagg responded to a homeowner's concerns about 30 large plants on his property. Extension

Agent Mark Sutphin reported it to the Virginia Tech Weed Lab, and Extension Weed Science Specialist Michael Flessner and Dr. Jordan Metzgar, curator of the Massey Herbarium at Virginia Tech, helped confirm the plants' identity as Giant Hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*.



All parts of this plant are dangerous and should not be touched. Giant Hogweed's sap can cause severe blistering and pain, as well as blindness. New York's Department of Environmental Conservation has additional information at [Health Hazards & Safety Instructions for Giant Hogweed \(with graphic photos\)](#).

With the finding in Clarke County, the plants were apparently planted in the 1970s for ornamental purposes by a previous landowner. It appears they have not spread on this known site, and as of June 18, 2018, there are no confirmed cases of this plant occurring in wild areas of Virginia.

Giant Hogweed is a member of the carrot family and looks similar to its more widespread cousin, the native Cow Parsnip, *Heracleum maximum*. New York DEC's [Giant Hogweed Identification](#) illustrates the differences between Giant Hogweed and native Cow Parsnip, as well as between it and other relatives. **Extension Master Gardeners should expect an increase in requests for ID of plants in this family, as well as similar plants.**

If you suspect you have located Giant Hogweed, do not touch the plant. Take clear photos, without endangering yourself, of the plant's leaves, stems, and flowers, if present, including any red or purple stem discoloration. Email those photos to your [local extension agent](#). In the Northern Shenandoah Valley, homeowners can also contact their county's Extension Master Gardeners (see page 7 for contact info) or email NSVMGA.info@gmail.com. (Photos: Mark Sutphin)



Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle

Linda Melton

The Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle, or Asian ladybug, *Harmonia axyridis*, is an unwanted seasonal visitor in many homes in the Shenandoah Valley. Prepare now to help with the oncoming invasion.

Between 1916 and 1985 the USDA released Asian ladybugs as a biological control agent to eat tree aphids. In Virginia, they were first reported in January of 1993.



Asian ladybugs are larger than our native ladybug. They range in color from orange to yellow, and may even be red or black. Most

have 19 spots that vary in size and intensity, while some have no spots. All have a black "M" shape on the back of the head. (Photo: Steve Jacobs)

While native ladybugs hibernate in outdoor locations, Asian ladybugs enter your home through small openings in search of a hibernation area. They are attracted to buildings that are near woods and those that have contrasting dark and light areas. They seek areas with steady cool temperatures to slow their metabolism.

Once they find the perfect spot, they'll stay there until temperatures increase in the spring. Fluctuations over winter cause their metabolism to increase, and they migrate to warmer areas of the house. Any you see in your home over winter entered in the fall.

Exclusion is the best and most effective approach to preventing Asian ladybugs from entering your home. They can fit through openings that are less than 1/8" in size, so seal cracks around your home using caulk or expanding foam. Take time now to repair or replace window and door screens and install thresholds and rubber seals.

If you aren't able to prevent Asian ladybugs entering your home, you can use a vacuum cleaner to get rid of them. Use a stocking secured with a rubber band around the end of the vacuum hose. When done, turn off the vacuum, remove the stocking, and use the rubberband to close the stocking. Dispose of the Asian ladybugs outside because their blood, or hemolymph, contains chemicals that have a foul odor and can stain. See Ohio State's [Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle](#) for a graphic of this method.

Learn more at Penn State's [Insect Advice from Extension - Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle \(Ladybug\)](#).

SAVE THE DATE: FREE EVENT! DEMOS & CRAFTS SPEAKERS & VENDORS GIVEAWAYS	 Shenandoah Valley Fall Roundup @ Belle Grove Plantation Sunday, September 16, 2018 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	11:00 POLLINATOR GARDENS
		12:00 HABITAT GARDENS
		1:00 FALL DECOR
		2:00 SEED SAVING

July

- 3 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 4 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 10 Board Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 6 p.m.*
- 10 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 11 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 13 Strasburg Community Garden Series, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Association Meeting at Warren Cty Gov Ctr, 4 p.m.*
- 17 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 18 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 18 Children's Nature Series at Bowman Library, 5 p.m.
- 18 Strasburg Community Garden Series, 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 25 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 27 Strasburg Community Garden Workshop, 6:30 p.m.
- 31 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.

August

- 1 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 1 Strasburg Community Garden Series, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 NAACP Frederick Douglass Family Day
- 7 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 8 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 14 Board Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 6 p.m.*
- 14 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 15 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 15 Children's Nature Series at Bowman Library, 5 p.m.
- 18 Strasburg Community Garden Event, 9 a.m.
- 19 Association Meeting at Bland Arboretum Library, 4 p.m.*
- 21 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 22 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 28 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 29 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.

September

- 4 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 5 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 11 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 11 Board Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 6 p.m.*
- 12 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 16 Association Meeting at Sunflower Cottage, 4 p.m.*
- 16 Fall Roundup at Belle Grove, 11 a.m.
- 18 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 19 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.
- 19 Children's Nature Series at Bowman Library, 5 p.m.
- 19 Strasburg Community Garden Workshop, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Belle Grove Teaching Garden, 9 a.m.
- 26 Samuels Library Garden, 9 a.m.

Starred Events Open Only to Association Members & Guests

Find Extension Master Gardeners at County Fair Info Booths

- Clarke County Fair: August 12th – 18th
- Page County Fair: August 18th – 25th
- Shenandoah County Fair: August 27th – August 31st

**NSVMGA members...
want to help plan
your Association?
Come to a board meeting!**

Tuesdays 6:00 p.m.
July 10, August 14, & September 11
at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit
125 Prosperity Drive
Winchester, VA 22602



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**Editor:**

Stacey Morgan Smith

Column Writers:

Suzanne Boag	Cy Haley
Jennifer Huffman	Lesley Mack
Linda Melton	Jessica Priest-Cahill
Sharon Rodriguez	Ginny Smith
Elaine Specht	Mary Turner

Contributing Writers:

Lynn Hoffmann

Proofreaders:

Kris Behrends	Mary Craig
Belinda Palmer	

Title Art:

Elena Lycas

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For more information or to contact any member,
 use VMS or email NSVMGAnews@gmail.com.

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 Master Gardener Program is on social media:
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The Editor's Pollinator Garden

Stacey Morgan Smith

This is my favorite time of year in the garden. Every morning I spend time enjoying the sights and sounds while I work. I also use that time to take photos of flowers and notice which plants are most popular with pollinators.

The **Common Milkweed** blooms, *Asclepias syriaca*, are always popular with the bees and butterflies. They also mark when the monarchs finally stop by. We have several large patches, as well as quite a few random plants around the property and in the perennial garden. The fritillaries especially enjoy milkweed, and they spend hours flying between sweetly scented cream-colored blooms of common milkweed and the bright orange blooms of Butterfly Milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*.

My favorite spot in the garden is near the native red-colored **Coral Honeysuckle**, *Lonicera sempervirens*. This mature plant was rescued 15 years ago during a state park renovation and gifted to me by a park ranger. It has survived four moves, as well as a whole year in a plastic grocery bag. It's beautiful, and while it isn't fragrant like the invasive White & Yellow Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), it's popular with the hummingbirds.

What pollinator plant is a must have in your garden? Let us know by email to NSVMGAnews@gmail.com.



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Fall Issue Deadline: September 10, 2018, noon

Email articles or events to NSVMGAnews@gmail.com.

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