

# Shenandoah Valley GARDENING

Newsletter of NSVMGA, the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

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Do you love gardening? Helping others? Having fun with people who have a shared interest? If so, please consider becoming an Extension Master Gardener with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Unit of Virginia Cooperative Extension.

VCE's Extension Master Gardeners help their communities by volunteering at educational events and programs to help educate homeowners and to help them with home gardening problems. Don't worry -- "Master Gardeners" don't need

to know everything about gardening! They just have to be willing to help find the answer using research provided by Virginia Cooperative Extension and other reliable sources.

If you're interested in becoming certified as an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, [download an application](#) or contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension Frederick office at 540-665-5699 or [mark.sutphin@vt.edu](mailto:mark.sutphin@vt.edu). The completed application is due by Thursday, January 10, 2019. Space is limited, so apply early.

The 2019 class sessions begin Tuesday, February 19, 2019, and end mid-May. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 at the Warren County Community Center (538 Villa Ave, Front Royal, VA 22630).

Already an Extension Master Gardener? Please share with your friends!



## From the President Cy Haley



As we come to the end of the year, it's a great time to look back on some of our 2018 accomplishments.

Starting the year off was a packed house at the annual **Seed Exchange at Blandy** in January, then the fun **houseplant clinic** at Bowman Library in February, followed by a fantastic **Gardening in the Valley Symposium** in March. A lot of planning went into putting on these exceptional educational events for the public, and Extension Master Gardeners worked tirelessly to make sure each one was a success!

**GardenFest** was a success again, with a large crowd even with the threat of rain. Planning started in July of last year and culminated June 1<sup>st</sup> with plants galore, fun kid's events, and workshops, plus vendors of all types.

We've had wonderful **MG Education Adventures**, from Baltimore down to Harrisonburg. The interesting trips and fun learning adventures for all included trips to the National Arboretum, a tour of Ladew Garden, a visit to White House Lavender Farm, and information on the invasive Spotted Lanternfly.

Kids in our area learned more about horticulture through the **Junior Master Gardener Program** as well as projects and events at **Bowman** and **Samuels Libraries**. In addition, they enjoyed the **Daniel Morgan School Gardening Skills program** and the **Virginia Avenue Elementary School garden**. The 2018 MG Class installed another **children's garden in Strasburg** to be utilized for educational purposes along with urban/ag workshops. The **Blandy Community Garden** plot and the **Belle Grove Teaching Garden** continue to be used for educating the youth and adults alike.

We also have many county-level projects. Covering them all would take pages, but we want to highlight a few of them. **Warren County** was busy with programs at the library, Warren Heritage Society's Belle Boyd Gardens, and maintaining the Pollinator Garden. **Page County** had fun at the fair taking in horticultural specimens as well as manning the Farmers Market booth. They also continued to work on preservation and education for the Historic Chinquapin Oak. **Frederick County** stayed busy with the Farmers Market Booth in Old Town Winchester, participation at the Green Neighborhood Expo, NAACP Frederick Douglas Family Day, and O'Sullivan Films, where they manned booths for each event. **Clarke County** was bustling with activity at info booths at the Berryville Farmers Market, the Clarke County Fair, and the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center Baby Shower, while still finding the time to work on the Xeriscape Demo Garden at Chet Hobert Park. **Shenandoah County** never slowed down, as they kept up the gardens at the New Market Rain Gardens, Edinburg Mill Rain Garden, and the Corhaven Graveyard antebellum burial ground gardens. They also manned info booths at the Shenandoah County Fair, Lowe's Garden Center Help Desk, Strasburg Farmer's Market, and the Artisan Trail, while still providing activities for 4-H summer camps, the library, and school programs throughout the county.

All counties were able to help the public with their **Green Lines and Help Desks**.

Let's not forget the wonderful **2018 class of new Extension Master Gardeners and interns** and the terrific class coordinators and helpers who made it possible.

Whew -- what a year! It's all due to the efforts of each and every Extension Master Gardener Volunteer. You all do so much for the communities you live in, the people that you reach and teach, and your fellow Master Gardeners that you serve. Now on to next year's planning sessions!

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

Tuesdays 6:00 p.m.  
October 16, November 13, December 11  
at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit  
125 Prosperity Drive, Winchester, VA 22602



## MG Educational Adventures Suzanne Boag

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

**Mt. Defiance Cidery & Distillery** - October 24, 2018, 1:00 P.M. – Join NSVMGA members and guests in visiting the **Mt. Defiance Cider Barn** to learn about the cidery's fermentation process and, for those interested, to sample local ciders. Members should reserve their spots with committee chair Suzanne Boag by October 21<sup>st</sup>. (See her email for more information.) Mt. Defiance is located at 495 E. Washington Street, Middleburg, VA 20117.

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 Suzanne through VMS or email.

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

***Thank you to everyone who joined us this year.***

***We look forward to more education & fun in 2019!***



Photos, above:  
top, Suzanne Boag;  
bottom: Cy Haley



Photos, left:  
left, Mark Sutphin,  
right, Suzanne Boag

## Monthly Association Meetings Suzanne Boag

NSVMGA's monthly meetings keep members informed on volunteer opportunities and provide 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. Business meetings are open to NSVMGA members, and educational programs are open to all. Extension Master Gardeners earn a project hour and an education hour. Trainees and interns earn two project hours. (No meeting in December.)

**October 21, 2018, 4:00 p.m., at the Shenandoah County Government Center** (600 N. Main St., Woodstock, VA 22664) – Cathy Mayes of the American Chestnut Foundation will discuss the American Chestnut's history and the research to find a blight resistant tree; and Eric Day, Manager of the Virginia Tech Insect ID Lab, will talk about the Spotted Lanternfly Banding Project and what to expect for next year with this invasive insect.

**November 18, 2018, 2:00 p.m., at the Warren County Government Center** (220 N. Commerce St, Front Royal, VA 22630) – Annual business meeting to celebrate our members and accomplishments and to vote on the 2019 Budget and 2019 Executive Board Officers.

## Why I'm a Master Gardener

### Belinda Palmer

While being an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer involves a fair amount of work, it's also lots of fun.

I love volunteering at the Extension Master Gardener information tables at farmers markets, fairs, and seasonal events. The advice offered by fellow volunteers helps members of the community deal with questions about boxwood or tomato blight and how to manage insect pests, learn what that weed is and how to get rid of it (or if they should), and where to get knowledgeable, research-based, and up-to-date answers.

I'm encouraged to see more people growing their own food. In this age of genetic engineering and climate change, this ability will become increasingly important.

I'm reassured by the enthusiasm and diversity of those who stop by information tables, because we are all stewards of the earth. It's gratifying when someone returns later to thank us for solving a problem after they've "tried everything under the sun."

I've been inspired by the new friends I've made. I've learned from everyone I've met, and I've gained more than I've given.

Gardening is all about nurturing, helping, and sharing, and being an Extension Master Gardener is the best way I know to spread the joy!

(Belinda with Diane Costello at Shenandoah County Fair Booth 2015. Photo: Stacey Smith)



## Off the Beaten Path

### Elaine Specht

In the Shenandoah Valley where I-81 and I-64 intersect at Staunton, travelers catch a glimpse back in history as they look off to the West. It isn't a mirage, but rather farmsteads reconstructed or recreated at the Frontier Culture Museum. Now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the museum represents the various cultures that blended together in our area until the mid-Nineteenth century and still have a strong influence today.

Houses, huts, and barns representing the Old World demonstrate rural, agriculture-based life in England (see photo), Ireland, Germany, and West Africa. Taking the New World circuit, visitors can see how native populations, pioneers, and early Americans made their lives. Gardens and farm animals in each location show what people in each culture raised for sustenance. Plantings, such as flax, okra, and corn, help tell the story of how early Americans borrowed from the traditions of Ireland, West Africa, and Native Americans. Kiosks and living historians explain the reasons various groups immigrated, their farming practices, and their contributions to American culture.

The Frontier Culture Museum is open seven days a week, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. through November and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. December 1, 2018 through March 10, 2019. Admission prices vary by time of year and age. Group pricing and guided tours are available. Learn more at [Frontier Culture Museum](http://FrontierCultureMuseum.com). (Photo: Elaine Specht)





## Seasonal Gardening Tips Elaine Specht

### Fall Bulb Care: Put Them in or Take Them Out?

Fall is the time to work with bulbs, but whether you're planting them or taking them up depends on the type.

**Spring-Blooming Bulbs** - Crocus, Snowdrop (*Galanthus*), Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari*), Daffodil (*Narcissus*), Allium, Crown Imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*) and Tulips (*Tulipa*) are bulbs that bloom in spring. Some emerge as early as February, while others don't appear until May. To enjoy their spring beauty, plant them now. Most require fertile, well-drained soil in full sun. A bonus with many spring-blooming bulbs is they can tolerate being planted near Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) trees, whose roots can be toxic to many other plants.



**Summer-Blooming Bulbs** - Dahlia (Photo: Elaine Specht) Gladiolus, Caladium, Canna, Elephant's Ear (*Colocasia esculenta*), and Tuberous Begonia are all considered summer-blooming bulbs, although some are more accurately referred to as tuberous roots, corms, or rhizomes. Some are also grown more for foliage than the flower. While they may survive a Shenandoah Valley winter outdoors, it is recommended that you dig these bulbs once the foliage has died back or immediately after the first frost. Place the bulbs in dry peat and store where the temperature will not go below 50°. If raised in a container, you can bring the whole pot inside.

More information is available on Virginia Cooperative Extension's fact sheet, [Flowering Bulbs: Culture and Maintenance](#).

## NSVMGA Habitat Garden Registration Lynn Hoffmann

NSVMGA's **Native and Sustainable Habitat Garden for Flora and Fauna** program encourages 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.

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](#).

You can also optionally purchase, at cost, a weatherproof, full-color aluminum sign to add to your garden for \$16 (includes shipping), payable by check or PayPal. If you'd like more information, please visit [our website](#) or email [NSVMGA.info@gmail.com](mailto: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!



## Extension Master Gardeners in the Community

### Clarke County Ginny Smith

Clarke County Extension Master Gardeners are finishing up another productive year. The Farmers Market and Clarke County Fair booths both led to a lot of questions answered for the community. While most projects are complete for the year, still on the schedule is a general cleanup of the Xeriscape Garden at the park.

Ann Levi is the new Clarke County coordinator for next year, and she will do a great job! Thank you to all of our Clarke County Extension Master Gardeners for another wonderful year.

### Warren County Jessica Priest-Cahill

Warren County Extension Master Gardeners continue to work and provide consultations at Samuels Library, the Belle Boyd Cottage gardens, the Happy Creek Arboretum pollinator garden, and the Calvary Episcopal Church garden through September.

County members are also excited to help with the 2019 Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Unit Trainee Class, held in Front Royal February through May. Members are welcome to volunteer or to attend classes when space permits.

Katherine Rindt is stepping down as Warren County Coordinator in January. Our members truly appreciate her many years of service leading Warren County. Jessica Priest-Cahill, who has been "learning the ropes" as co-coordinator for the past year, will take over as county coordinator.

Thank you to all Warren County Extension Master Gardeners for their work this year in our community.



### Frederick County Mary Turner

Frederick County Extension Master Gardeners and Interns have wrapped up a very full summer, with a weekly info booth Saturdays at the Old Town Winchester Farmers Market (photo: Bob Gail), several different children's gardening programs, garden plots at Timbrook Community Park, and special events participation at NAACP Family Day, the Green Neighborhood Expo, and the O'Sullivan Wellness Expo.

Fall projects are now underway, including Gardening After School at Fremont Street Nursery, upgrading the Timbrook Pollinator Garden to a native plant pollinator garden, preparing soil for a 2019 three-seasons vegetable garden with produce to benefit Highland Food Pantry, and the 2019 Greenwood Mill Elementary Fall Garden Club Project, in which Extension Master Gardeners serve nearly 100 students each fall and spring.

Members also continue to monitor our county GreenLine to help homeowners with their home-gardening questions.

2018 was a wonderful year for Frederick County Extension Master Gardeners, and we're excited about 2019!

### Page County Lesley Mack

2018 was another busy year for Page County Extension Master Gardeners.

Members planted around 400 peat pots with squash or bean seeds in April, tended the seeds until they sprouted, and then delivered them to Shenandoah Elementary School's Annual Farm to Table Day for the students and teachers to grow.

County members also spent time whacking back the scrub growth and dreaded English ivy (*Hedera helix*) that tried to surround and crawl up our 250+ year old Chinquapin Oak tree – the third-largest in Virginia. (Photo: Lesley Mack)



English Ivy growing up trees competes with the tree for water and nutrients, and heavy infestations weaken a tree. [Learn more.](#)

Extension Master Gardeners were also busy during fair week, managing the Youth and Adult Horticulture Exhibits and the Water Quality Info Booth. The Water Quality Info Booth reminds gardeners of the importance of having the best and safest water possible and promotes useful and informational ideas about the Extension Master Gardener program.

*In the Community, continued...*

Page County Extension Master Gardeners continue to answer homeowners' questions received by phone and email. They also have an information booth at the Luray Farmers Market, twice a month, on Saturdays.

This year our newest members have embraced our projects and added their own thoughts and ideas. All of the Page County Extension Master Gardeners, whether "new" or "old," helped this year with all of the various projects. They each made 2018 wonderful, and 2019 will be another great year!

### Shenandoah County Sharon Rodriguez

As 2018 moves into fall, Shenandoah County Extension Master Gardeners are pleased to see the New Market Rain Garden, which they maintain, continues to handle record amounts of rainwater. It provides a holding area of water-loving plants that prevent runoff onto the lawn and parking lot, allowing time for the soil to absorb excess water. Visitors are welcome any time to look over the two gardens on the library grounds and a third across the parking lot.

More detailed information, put together by the class of 2017, is in the library.

The Edinburg Mill Rain Garden's function is to hold runoff rainwater on top of the bank until it can filter through the soil into Stoney Creek, and the plants are thriving despite the attention of ducks. This garden is on the river side of the Mill's parking lot.

Additional community-based activities this year included the Corhaven Graveyard, working with 4-H to provide children's programs for summer day camp and county fair activities; and display and plant-answer tables during the Shenandoah County Fair (right, Photos: Stacey Smith) and at the Strasburg Farmers Market and Lowe's throughout the growing season. Members also worked with community organizations to provide horticultural based presentations.



Shenandoah County's Extension Master Gardeners had a great 2018 and they look forward to working together, with all the new interns, and with the community even more in 2019.


For more information, contact county coordinators  
or email [NSVMGANews@gmail.com](mailto:NSVMGANews@gmail.com).

## Home Gardening Questions Answered

by VCE Master Gardener Volunteers

*Call or email if you need help!*



Clarke  Frederick  Page  Shenandoah  Warren  
540-955-5164 540-665-5699 540-778-5794 540-459-6140 540-635-4549

facebook.com/NSVMGA - nsvmga.org - nsvmga.org/newsletter - nsvmga.info@gmail.com



### Need Help? Contact Us!

Extension Master Gardeners are available year round through phone and email to help with home gardeners' questions.

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.

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



## Hit-or-Miss Patio Gardening

### Jennifer Huffman

Taking a detour from my perennial container garden, I want to share an autumn planter that I put together at my friend's house. When money is tight, you can still make a fabulous "hit or miss" garden with what you have on hand.

With the August heat, I always need to edit my annual containers, as some plants have given up the ghost. I salvaged some of my Geranium, Coleus, *Caladium*, *Dracaena*, *Lantana*, and *Dichondra*. I put these plants in the spare fabric pot and added a *Chrysanthemum* for the fall appeal.

Not a stickler for sun/shade rules? Like to use your intuition? If proper precautions are taken, you can mingle sun and shade loving plants in the same container. Since the Coleus and *Caladium* requires more moisture than the other plants, I can water that section more. The *Caladium* also needs more shade, so it is in its own little habitat tucked under the Coleus and shaded by an existing shrub in the friend's garden.



Container gardening is on the rise due to smaller yards and limited time. When you create a container garden, it might help you to think of each plant as an individual and not the container as a whole. As you focus on the particular needs of each plant, you will learn its living requirements and will be able to detect and resolve unwanted issues quickly.

Now is also a great time to take cuttings of some annuals like Coleus, so you can container garden inside over winter. Easily started in water, tip cuttings will soon root and be ready to plant in a pot and placed near a window with bright, indirect light. When spring rolls around next year, you'll have small plants ready to put into an outside container and get a head start on your spring garden.

Before you throw out those withering annuals, see if you can revive them and design a fall container or snip them for a winter container and wow your friends and neighbors!

If you're just getting started with a container garden, check out Colorado State University's [Container Gardens](#) or PennState Extension's [The Art of Container Gardening](#).

## Gardening with Wildlife

### Jessica Priest-Cahill

You notice raised mounds in your lawn. Your tulips are dying, and when you go to check them, the leaves are chewed away from the bulbs. Your new cherry tree isn't doing well, and you notice marks around the exposed roots and low bark.

"Drat! I have a mole," you think.

Not so fast! A vole may have caused some of that damage.

Mole? Vole? Rhymes, but they are very different from each other.

Moles are members of the *Talpidae* family. The three moles that live in the Northern Shenandoah Valley are the eastern, hairy-tailed, and star-nosed moles. All moles are insectivores, eating earthworms and grubs. Not only do moles eat a tremendous number of grubs, including the grubs of the dreaded Japanese beetle, they enhance soil quality by loosening the soil. This improves aeration and mixes deeper soils with surface organic material.

Voles are members of the *Rodentia* (rodent) family. They feed mainly on roots, stems, seeds, and tree bark. Rock, woodland, and meadow voles live in the Shenandoah Valley. Although moles may cause some root damage as they tunnel looking for food (they eat almost nonstop), voles are the critters doing damage to your trees, vegetable gardens, and ornamental plantings. Voles will use mole tunnels to travel, which is one reason the two animals are so often confused with one another.

Moles and voles are important prey animals in natural ecosystems, serving as a food source for foxes, owls, falcons, snakes, bobcats, skunks, and shrews. Not only could using poisons as a means of control lead to secondary poisoning of these animals, there is also the risk of accidental poisoning of children and pets.

So instead of maligning the mole, unless you own a golf course, consider a truce. Or even better, convert some of your traditional lawn to meadow or native-plant gardens, which is good for moles, song-birds, and other native fauna.

For more information see VCE's [Managing Wildlife Damage: Moles](#) and Maryland Cooperative Extension's [Reducing Vole Damage](#).



## Gardening with Kids Jessica Priest Cahill

**Water for Birds.** My sons and I love seeing birds in our gardens, so this month we're sharing ideas on incorporating water for birds in the garden.

Traditional concrete birdbaths are nice, but they can be too deep for some birds. To help, place large rocks or bricks in the birdbath to make perching areas for birds.

You can make a water feature for birds by placing a puddling stone in your garden. Any large stone with a shallow concave feature that will hold water can be used. (If there are outside cats in the area, raise the water feature to help keep the birds out of harm's way.)

Just like your pet cat and dog, birds enjoy fresh, running water. Circulating the water in some way freshens the water and is more appealing to birds. You can add inexpensive pumps or small solar fountains to keep water moving. You can also add a water feature made from a milk jug. (Check out our Facebook page for photos of this project and share your photos if you make one!)

### Supplies needed:

1. rinsed and cleaned 1 gallon milk jug with lid
2. scissors or serrated knife
3. 8 18" pieces of twine
4. hole punch
5. nail and hammer or awl

### Directions

1. Get help from an adult to cut off the bottom base of the milk jug off at about 1 inch up from the bottom.
2. Use the nail and hammer or awl to punch a few small holes into the milk jug lid. Replace onto jug.

3. Punch 4 holes around the neck of the jug, 4 holes around the bottom of the jug, and 4 holes around the removed base, evenly spaced.
4. Using 4 pieces of twine, tie the milk jug neck to the removed base through the punched holes, keeping twine even.
5. Tie 4 remaining pieces of twine to the holes in the bottom of the jug. Connect together at ends to make a hanger. (The jug hangs upside down when in use.)
6. Hang your water jug in your garden and fill the open bottom with water. The water will drip into the newly attached base. Refill each day to keep fresh water available.

Winter is approaching, and birds need water to maintain metabolism, even in the cold. (Photo: Stacey Smith)

For more information on providing water sources for birds, read Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [Providing Water for Birds](#).

For specific information on providing water in the winter, see University of Illinois Extension's [Inexpensive Tips for Helping Birds in Winter](#) or the National Wildlife Federation Blog's [Don't Forget Water for Birds in the Winter](#).



## “Nature’s Surprises” Children’s Series Lynn Hoffmann

Extension Master Gardeners offer **free monthly workshops for children** at Bowman Library. Preregister at the library: (540) 869-9000.

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:

**October 17, 2018 “Seeds and Weeds”** Explore the pond on a nature walk. Learn how to build a bee house and take one home for your garden.

**November 21, 2018 “Trees and Leaves”** Walk around the library and name the trees. Use leaves to make something special to take home.

**December 19, 2018 “Gourd Ornaments”** Learn how a small seed can grow into a great gourd. Take home a gourd to make inside décor or an ornament birds can use all year.



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

***Thank you to all the children (and parents) who attended this year’s programs, and thank you to the Extension Master Gardeners who led each talk and helped!***

## 2019 Annual Seed Exchange

Elaine Specht

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Seed Exchange at Blandy is January 26, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Gardeners of all skill levels are welcome to swap seeds, plants, roots, cuttings, and stories with their fellow gardening enthusiasts.

Everyone who attends can take at least 5 packets of seeds. Participants who bring seeds or other plant materials to share are welcome to take more.

If you plan to bring seeds, now is the time to save them.

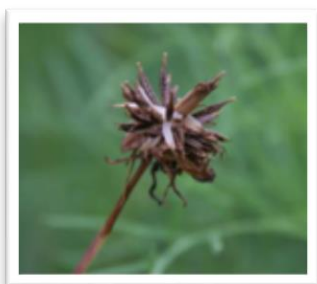
- Allow seedpods or flower heads to dry on the plant before collecting. (Photo: Elaine Specht)
- Remove the seeds from the pods or crumble to separate the seeds from the chaff.
- Bring the cleaned seeds in labeled packages or containers suitable for swapping.
- Seeds from vegetables may need to be fermented or dried before packaging.

The excellent [Introduction to Seed Saving for the Home Gardener](#) includes tips and pictures and is available from the University of Maine's Cooperative Extension.

Packaged bulbs or cuttings are also welcome at the Exchange. Alien invasive plants included on the [State Arboretum of Virginia's Invasive Species List](#) are not permitted.

The Seed Exchange event also includes a one-for-one book exchange, vendors with garden-themed merchandise, and door prizes.

This free event is hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension and co-sponsored by NSVMGA and the Foundation of the State Arboretum at Blandy Experimental Farm (FOSA). It will be held at Blandy Experimental Farm, Rt. 50 in Clarke County, ten miles east of Winchester.



## Invasive Insects

Linda Melton

### Help Control Asian Mosquitoes.

Increased rains this year lead to a lot of mosquitoes. Two of the many species of mosquitoes found in Virginia are the Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) and the Asian Rock Pool or Asian Bush Mosquito (*Aedes japonicus*). Both of these mosquitoes first made their way here in the mid 1980s and mid 1990s.

The Asian Tiger Mosquito is black with a white stripe on its head and thorax and white banding on its legs, which makes it difficult to see at times. The Asian Rock Pool Mosquito is brown and a little easier to see.

Male mosquitoes are strictly nectar feeders. It's the female mosquitoes that are a nuisance since they need to feed on the blood of mammals. They can feed from morning till dusk, and may also feed longer if inside or if artificial lights are around; however, they tend to avoid bright light.

After feeding for four to five days, they lay their eggs in or near stagnant (non-flowing, low-oxygenated) water. Low oxygen levels have been found to stimulate hatching, which occurs in seven to nine days. The larvae, often called "wigglers" or "grubbers" because of the way they move, are between 1/4" - 1/2" in length. Within five to ten days, they enter into the pupa stage, which lasts two to three days before the adult emerges. Adult mosquitoes live for three weeks.

Mosquito eggs can survive the winter in our area. Eggs can also survive desiccation for up to one year and still develop into adults once conditions are favorable.

Because mosquitoes only need one tablespoon of water to lay eggs, diligence is the best way to control the population.

- Change the water in pet water bowls and birdbaths to remove eggs. Install water-circulation devices to keep water moving.
- Cover rain barrels and cisterns with wire mesh with holes too small for adult mosquitoes.
- Empty standing water from flowerpot saucers, tarps, clogged rain gutters, wheel barrows, or any place where water can pool.
- Dispose of trash that can hold water.
- Fill tree holes and hollow stumps with sand.

To learn more, see VCE's [Mosquitos and Their Control](#) and [Virginia Cooperative Extension Offers Tips for Controlling Mosquitoes](#).



**October**

- 16 Board Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 6 p.m.\*
- 17 Children's Nature Series at Bowman Library, 5 p.m.
- 21 Association Meeting at Shenandoah County Government Center, 4 p.m.\*

**November.**

- 2 Shenandoah County Help Desk (GreenHelpLine) at County Government Building, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 12 Williamsburg Style Decorating for the Holidays: Presentation and Demo at Handley Regional Library, 6:30 – 8 p.m. (contact library to register)
- 13 Board Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 6 p.m.\*
- 18 Association Meeting at Warren County Government Center, 2 p.m.\*
- 21 Children's Nature Series at Bowman Library, 5 p.m.

**December**

- 1 Williamsburg Style Decorating for the Holidays: Hands-on Workshop at Handley Regional Library, 12:30 – 2 p.m. (contact library to register)
- 7 Shenandoah County Help Desk (GreenHelpLine) at County Government Building, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 11 Board Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 6 p.m.\*
- 19 Children's Nature Series at Bowman Library, 5 p.m.

**January**

- 4 Shenandoah County Help Desk (GreenHelpLine) at County Government Building, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- TBA Board Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 6 p.m.\*
- TBA Association Meeting, 2 p.m.\*
- 17 Master Gardener Class of 2019 Information & Interviews at Samuels Public Library, 5 p.m.
- 26 Seed Exchange at Blandly, 10 a.m.

\*Starred Events Open Only to Association Members & Guests\*



Williamsburg Style Holiday Decorating  
w/ Extension Master Gardener Lynn Hoffmann  
at Handley Regional Library (Contact Library to Register)

**November 12, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Presentation and Demo**

Learn How to Decorate Using Natural Materials

**December 1, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Hands-on Workshop**

Make and Take Your Own Holiday Décor  
Using Supplied Natural Materials

**VCE Master Gardener Help Desk  
Open Today!**

Shenandoah County VCE Classroom 9 am - 12 noon  
600 North Main St, Woodstock, VA 22664

Shenandoah County's winter Help Desk (GreenHelpLine) is open the first Friday of each month. Don't let winter get in the way of learning about gardening and getting answers to your problems! (Keep an eye on Facebook for this or a similar photo as a reminder.)



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

Stacey Morgan Smith

My pollinator garden was amazing this year, and I finally witnessed every stage of a monarch's life, as seen here (egg & first instar photographed at 60x magnification). The past 12 months of stratifying and starting seed, growing plants, and enjoying all of the life in the garden culminates with saving more seed to repeat the process. I hope those growing some of the 3,000 plants we sold at GardenFest are enjoying their blooms!



Since this is our last issue of the year, I want to thank all of our column and contributing writers, photographers, artists, and proofreaders. I've enjoyed this year as your editor, and I look forward to 2019! If you'd like to contribute to a future issue, please email me at [NSVMGAnews@gmail.com](mailto:NSVMGAnews@gmail.com).

I'd like to end this issue by sharing a benefit of being an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer you may not have considered if you're debating making the commitment to join. I'm writing this on September 22, 2018, which is four years to the day since I lost my Dad to cancer. 2014 was also the year I became an Extension Master Gardener. I joined this organization to help people...I never expected to help myself. I met people who changed my life, taught me, supported me, and made me laugh when I didn't think I could. This photo from 2018 Symposium could have been taken

at any point in the last four years: the smiling faces of my classmates and friends (from left) Claire De Masi, Elaine Specht, and Elena Lycas (and me). We enjoy our separate – but related – projects and volunteer work, and we are all brought together under the umbrella of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program. I'm so fortunate to be a part of something so amazing. You can be, too ☺



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### Winter Issue Deadline: January 10, 2019.

Email articles or events to [NSVMGAnews@gmail.com](mailto:NSVMGAnews@gmail.com).

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