

Shenandoah Valley GARDENING

Newsletter of NSVMGA, the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

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**Join the Northern
Shenandoah Valley
MASTER GARDENERS!**
**The CLASS
of 2020 is
GOING DIGITAL**

Join Master Gardeners! Help Others and Learn About Gardening

In the VCE Master Gardener program, you'll learn about gardening and how to research problems. You'll then take that knowledge and help homeowners in the area through a wide variety of service projects.

If you work full time, have a long drive, live here part time, or for many other reasons, twice-per-week classes may not have worked for you. With the 2020 training, you'll read at home and watch online training at your convenience by the due date. Then you'll get together a few times per month to practice what you've learned.

Interested? [Download an application](#) and bring it with you to any one of six registration and information sessions:

- Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 6:00 PM
MidAtlantic Farm Credit Conference Room, 125 Prosperity Drive, Winchester
- Saturday, November 2, 2019, 9:00 AM
MidAtlantic Farm Credit Conference Room, 125 Prosperity Drive, Winchester
- Monday, November 4, 2019, 5:30 PM
Samuels Library, 330 East Criser Rd, Front Royal
- Thursday, November 7, 2019, 6:00 PM
Massanutten Country Corner, 3546 US Highway 211 West, Luray, VA
- Friday, November 8, 2019, 1:00 PM
Clarke VCE Office, 524 Westwood Road, Berryville, Virginia
- Saturday, November 9, 2019, 10:00 AM
Shenandoah VCE Classroom, 600 North Main Street, Woodstock, VA

Learn more about the VCE Master Gardener program in the Northern Shenandoah Valley at [NSVMGA.org](https://www.nsvmga.org) or [Facebook.com/NSVMGA](https://www.facebook.com/NSVMGA).



From the President Bob Gail



Become a Virginia Extension Master Gardener!

What is an Extension Master Gardener? An Extension Master Gardener is an individual who, after receiving specialized training in environmental horticulture through Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), acts as a volunteer educator within his or her community. An Extension Master Gardener (EMG) provides education on all aspects of sustainable landscape management, including turf and soil fertility management, vegetable and ornamental gardening, tree and shrub care, storm water control, and insect and plant disease management.

What does the Volunteer Training Program include? Developed by Virginia Tech and Virginia State University horticulture specialists, VCE Agents, and the state Master Gardener Program Coordinator's office, the Volunteer Training Program consists of two parts: 70+ hours of online training and in-person lab workshops, and a 50-hour hands-on internship. In the online course and in-person lab workshops, trainees learn about Spotted Lanternfly and other insects, basic botany and soil science, woody and herbaceous plants, vegetable gardening, Integrated Pest Management practices, lawn care, and more. The internship includes hands-on experience in approved horticulture service projects, including demonstration gardens, plant clinics, and public education.

If you want to be a volunteer educator, love gardening, and want to protect our environment by sharing what you learn with your own community, this class is for you! Once certified, EMGs teach their communities' homeowners about best management practices for urban agriculture and sustainable landscaping. EMGs retain their certifications by annually completing 20 volunteer service hours and 8 hours of continuing education.

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association, a 501(C)(3) non-profit, supports its members, who are Extension Master Gardeners serving the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren. The Association collaborates with VCE to further our parallel goals of providing community education about sustainable gardening practices.

For more information regarding the upcoming 2020 class, visit <http://nsvmga.org/join/>.

VCE Master Gardener Project To-Do List

- ☒ Sign up for favorite project.
- ☒ Have a great time volunteering!
- ☐ Enter hours into VMS.

*Projects aren't complete until
you've recorded your service hours.*

All hours through September should be in.

Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Bailey McGill, VCE-Frederick intern

To help slow the spread of the [Spotted Lanternfly](#) (SLF) out of Winchester and Frederick County, in May the Virginia Department of Consumer Services (VDACS) issued a quarantine for Frederick County and the city of Winchester. The quarantine requires business owners to obtain training and a permit from VDACS, which enables them to properly inspect for SLF when shipping items out of the quarantined area. More details about the permit and quarantine can be found [here](#).

While this permit only applies to business entities, VDACS also asks the general public to inspect any items that could be at risk for transporting the pest before they are moved out of the quarantined area. A checklist for community members can be found [here](#). Some items that are considered at risk include but are not limited to: vehicles, garden equipment, outdoor furniture, trailers, and building materials.

While inspecting, it's important to consider the time of year and current life stage of SLF. If nymphs and adults are found, they should be crushed or collected into rubbing alcohol. During the fall, starting in October, egg masses can be found on any smooth surface located outside. They start out shiny gray in color but will turn into a dull, brownish gray color as they age. If egg masses are found they should be crushed or scraped off and put into rubbing alcohol.

VDACS also asks that citizens control any Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) on their property and report any SLF sightings to the Virginia Cooperative Extension office or to VDACS. For information on how to report a sighting see this [resource](#).

This pest not only affects businesses in the area, but it has the potential to affect the community as a whole. Community members inside the known area of infestation can find home ornamental pest management information in the [Home Grounds and Animals Pest Management Guide](#) (PMG) on page 4-57, table 4-5. Slowing the spread of this pest will take each member of the community doing their part. (Photos by VCE Frederick)



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

Thursdays 6:00 p.m. November 14, December 12, & (tentatively) January 9
at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 125 Prosperity Drive, Winchester, VA 22602

Monthly Association Meetings

NSVMGA's monthly meetings keep members informed on volunteer and continuing education 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 include a social snack break. Business meetings are open to NSVMGA members, and educational programs are open to members and guests. Extension Master Gardeners earn a project hour and an education hour for attending. Trainees and interns earn two project hours. (No meeting in December.)

October 20, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

MidAtlantic Farm Credit

125 Prosperity Drive, Winchester, VA

Extension Master Gardener Helen Lake will discuss horticultural therapy.

November 17, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

Warren County Government Center

220 North Commerce Ave, Front Royal, VA 22630

Our annual Association party and celebration of the year, including recognition of members, Executive Board election, and Budget approval.

2020 Seed Exchange Expands Campus Wide! Elaine Specht

2020 will mark the 10th Seed Exchange at Blandy. The event, co-sponsored by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association and the Friends of the State Arboretum, has grown steadily each year to the point where one building can't hold us anymore!

To make room for all of our attendees, activities will spread out and take place in four locations across the Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum campus:

- Blandy's Library,
- The Dining Room,
- Parkfield Learning Center, and
- Peetwood Pavilion for Environmental Education.

Everything you love about the Seed Exchange will stay the same, but now you'll find more elbowroom! More space will also give us room for a new feature: hands-on workshops for adults and children.

As always, we'll have a lot of seeds! We'll also have bulbs and plant cuttings to share, vendors with plant-related items, and an exchange of gently used garden-themed books and magazines. Plus you'll find Extension Master Gardeners on hand to help answer your gardening questions.

If you're planning to bring seeds or other plant materials to the exchange, please bring them in pre-packaged and labeled envelopes or other suitable sealed containers ready for someone to take home for spring planting. Anyone who brings seeds for exchange, including commercial seeds you didn't get around to using this year, is welcome to take what they will use. Please do not bring any seeds or cuttings from plants on the [Blandy list of invasive species](#).

Please join us even if you don't have seeds to exchange. You are invited to take up to 5 packets of seeds. Get more information on the Seed Exchange at Blandy at [NSVMGA.org/events/seed-exchange](https://www.nsvmga.org/events/seed-exchange) and watch the [NSVMGA Facebook page](#) for frequent updates about planned workshops and vendors as we get closer to the event.



Event Details

- **When:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., January 25, 2020
- **Where:** Blandy Experimental Farm, Rt. 50 in Clarke County, 10 miles east of Winchester.
- **Co-Sponsors:** NSVMGA and the Foundation of the State Arboretum at Blandy Experimental Farm
- **Cost:** Free!
- **Featuring:**
 - Seeds!
 - Bulbs & Cuttings
 - Plant-related Vendors
 - Gently-used Gardening Book & Magazine Swap
 - Hands-on Workshops
 - Extension Master Gardener Help



Hit-or-Miss Patio Gardening

Jennifer Mathias

Many times people think of Extension Master Gardeners as folks who only provide information on edible gardening, such as vegetables, fruit trees, and herbs. My experience lies within the aesthetically pleasing realm of shade gardens and decorative containers.

If you are new to creative gardening, keep these three principles in mind when choosing plants:

- **Thrillers:** tall plants that draw the eye;
- **Spillers:** vine-like plants that spill over the pot; and
- **Fillers:** plants that fill in the remaining empty spaces.

Here are two containers I created a few autumns ago:

“Copious Coleus”

- **Thrillers:** *Dracaena indivisia* (Spike Plant) – smooth height
- **Spillers:** *Pilea nummulariifolia* (Creeping Charlie) – textured flow
- **Fillers:** *Plectranthus scutellarioides* (Coleus) – mounds of color



“Autumn Joy”

- **Thrillers:** Autumn Joy Stonecrop (*Hylotelephium telephium* formerly *Sedum*) – tall dramatic color
- **Spillers:** Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus aethiopicus*) – touch of cascading fullness
- **Fillers:** Hens and Chicks (*Sempervivum tectorum*) – shorter sedum to anchor the Autumn Joy; and Dusty Miller (*Senecio Cineraria*) – halo of light offsetting the richer colors



See Colorado State University's [Container Gardens](#) for more information on container gardening.

Don't fear that you cannot contribute to the Extension Master Gardener program if you can't grow vegetables; neither can I! Embrace what you are able to do and give wholeheartedly. (Photos by Jennifer Mathias.)

“Flowers are happy things.”
P. G. Wodehouse

Off the Beaten Path

Elaine Specht

Most Virginians are familiar with Williamsburg's colonial-era attractions, shopping outlets, and amusement parks, but well off the beaten path you can find the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

The elliptical-shaped garden in the middle of Freedom Park, a public park on Centerville Road in James City County, was established in 2005. Although only 2-acres, the completely fenced-in site has a surprising diversity of planting areas: Native Plant Garden, Heirloom Garden, Therapy Garden, Native Grasses, Bulb Garden, Wildflower Meadow, and much more.

The Pollinator Bed in the Butterfly Garden, where this common buckeye butterfly (*Junonia coenia*) was photographed in October 2018, was developed by Virginia Master Gardeners from James City County/Williamsburg.



Because of the overall modest size of the garden, each of the 19 separate planting areas are at a scale small enough to serve as realistic inspiration for home gardeners. James City County is in plant hardiness zone 7 compared to zone 6 in the Northern Shenandoah Valley, but many of the garden plants and practices still translate well to our area.

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden is open every day from 7 a.m. to dusk. Admission is free. To learn more, check out the [Williamsburg Botanical Garden Facebook page](#) or williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org. (Photos by Elaine Specht.)



Seasonal Gardening Tips Elaine Specht

Low-cost Container Plants for Multiple Seasons of Enjoyment

Switching out container plants each season can get expensive. Here is an affordable alternative that will give you multiple seasons of a color.

Autumn: Purchase and plant a bright mix of *Viola tricolor* (also known as pansies and Johnny Jump Ups).

Winter: Store containers in area with natural light, where the soil will not freeze. An attached garage or unheated basement with windows will work. Continue to water the containers about once a month.

Spring: Bring out the containers and watch the violas come back to life. They'll look great until the temperatures are steadily in the 80s.

Summer: As the violas are dying back with the heat of summer, drop in French marigold seeds (*Tagetes patula*). Keep the pots well watered and watch as the new plants take off.

Autumn: Keep the cost savings going the following autumn, by keeping seeds from the marigolds to plant either in pots or the soil the following year.



Becoming a Master Gardener & Why I'm Proud to be One Kyle Kennedy

In September of 2018, I was waiting to cross the street in "downtown" Mount Jackson. My wife and I stood next to a couple we started making small talk with. They mentioned that they would be having dinner with some "Master Gardener" friends of theirs later that evening. I think my ears literally perked up, having my interest in gardening and plants instantly piqued. They took my information, agreeing to share it with their friends, and we parted ways.

Now, as of September 15th, 2019, I'm officially a "Master Gardener Intern." I've fulfilled my educational requirement, but not yet my volunteer hours, which I'm working towards. Looking back on my Master Gardener training class, my only regret is not being able to do it sooner in life. I wouldn't have traded any of the experiences, educational or volunteer, for anything.

The speakers were consistently phenomenal. They ranged from scientists to professors, from experts in landscaping to passionate, seasoned Extension Master Gardeners bringing their personal expertise and education to the classes. It felt like a college course on topics I was always excited to learn about that were presented with a passion driven by the want to be there and to share knowledge.

Above the course content, my classmates and I seemed to naturally bond over our shared "nerdiness" over all things plants, gardening, outdoors, and a desire to volunteer and serve our surrounding community in a bigger way. That shared universal drive and desire is what makes me proud to be a part of the VCE Master Gardener Program and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association.

Whether you volunteer at an event as large and complex as GardenFest in June or help someone at a GreenLine session at your local extension office, you know that Extension Master Gardeners are there to spread knowledge and serve the general public, not because we have to, but because we want to!



Extension Master Gardeners in the Community

Clarke County

Ann Levi

In Clarke, we're excited about the 2020 class! The best part about being an Extension Master Gardener is the opportunity to share with others the "joy of gardening." That comes about in many ways: with the public at an Information Booth or on a Greenline, with other Extension Master Gardeners at events big and small, and spending time with fellow members on projects. I particularly look forward to cleaning and packaging seeds for the upcoming Seed Exchange. We will sit around a big table and have great conversations while we work. It is always enjoyable to spend time with "my people."

I recently came across this interesting piece of history. Did you know that the milkweed seedpod floss had an important military use? In 1944 the US military needed a light and buoyant substitute to use for the filling in life jackets. (Previously floss from the kapok tree was used, but that supply was not available after the Japanese took control of the area around Indonesia.) In order to fulfill an immediate need, schoolchildren were asked to gather milkweed pods in onion bags. They were then shipped to Petoskey, Michigan for processing. [Click](#) to read more.

Warren County

Jessica Priest-Cahill

If you have gardening questions, contact the Extension Master Gardener Greenline at greenhelpline.warrenco@gmail.com. Warren County Extension Master Gardeners look forward to welcoming new members of the Class of 2020 as they plan two class workshops taking place in Front Royal.

Frederick County

Mary Turner

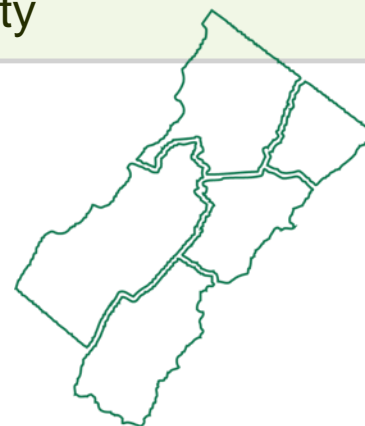
Excitement is building in Frederick County as we begin to plan activities for our new greenhouse at Fremont Street Nursery. In addition to being able to start and manage seedlings for our raised beds and for the Timbrook Community Garden, this new space will serve as a new outdoor classroom space.

Our 10-week Summer Garden Project at Fremont, launched by members of the class of 2016, enters its fourth season in June 2020 and will serve up to 50 students.

The Timbrook Garden Pollinator plot, rich with native plants, is not only hosting dozens of species but also providing seeds for the Seed Exchange and seedlings for GardenFest. Produce from the Timbrook Three-Season Vegetable Garden continues to flow to Highland Food Pantry and to the families of children at Fremont. Both garden plots are planted and maintained by Extension Master Gardeners and continue to serve as summer field trip sites for Fremont students.

Frederick County outreach is tremendously boosted by our presence at both the Old Town Winchester Farmers Market information tent (Saturdays, May through September) and the Greenline Help Desk at the Frederick County Extension Office (Wednesdays, March through Thanksgiving, 10-1, and online year-round).

A myriad of opportunities to teach are available for Extension Master Gardeners and Interns in Frederick County. For a detailed list, please see the NSVMGA website.



Page County

Lesley Mack

Page County Extension Master Gardeners look forward to welcoming new members of the Class of 2020 and are planning two class workshops taking place in Luray. County members welcome questions from area residents about plants, gardens, or encounters with insects. You can contact them year round with your gardening questions through the VCE Office in Stanley, at 540-778-5794. In May through September, you can also find them at the Farm Market and info booth at Massanutten Country Corner.

Shenandoah County

Kathy Doyle & Roz McIntosh

Shenandoah County Extension Master Gardeners are already working on next year's projects, including rain, community, and memorial gardens, children's projects, and getting ready to lead trainee workshops. In the Children's Garden at the Strasburg Community Garden, they are planning a fall cleanup as part of the garden-wide cleanup and already planning educational programs for next spring, summer, and fall. Volunteers are needed!

County residents are invited to get gardening questions answered through email or phone by contacting the Greenline help desk at GreenHelpLine@gmail.com or 540-459-6140.

Library Gardening Series Lynn Hoffmann

Programs for Adults (18 and over)

Extension Master Gardeners offer **free monthly adult gardening education talks and workshops** at Bowman or Handley Libraries. Scheduled Talks Include:

Plants for Small Spaces Talk

Thursday, November 21, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

at Handley Library. Learn about low-light tolerant plants that thrive in small spaces. FREE but registration required. See more at Handley Regional Library's website.

Christmas Swag Workshop

Saturday, December 7, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

at Bowman Library. Have fun making your own unique Christmas door swag decoration using fresh cut pine and other natural materials. FREE but registration required. See more at Handley Regional Library's website.

Programs for Children (6 to 11)

Extension Master Gardeners offer **free monthly children's gardening education workshops** at Bowman Library. Scheduled Talks Include:

Chickens in the Garden!

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

at Bowman Library. Have fun learning how chickens and gardening can go to together. FREE but registration required. See more at Handley Regional Library's website.

Christmas from the Garden!

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

at Bowman Library. Learn how your garden can be a part of your Christmas décor. FREE but registration required. See more at Handley Regional Library's website.

Congratulations to our 2018 Milestone Award Recipients for Their Hours of Service to the Northern Shenandoah Valley





Suzanne Boag..... 3,000	Marcia Kaetzel500	Lori Nuri-Kesner500
Lisa Brown 250	John Kummer500	Jessica Priest-Cahill250
Pat Casey..... 250	Cecelia Latham500	Kate Reed250
Susan Chiccehitto 250	Ann Levi.....1,000	Carolyn Rutherford500
Teresa Favilla..... 250	Nancy Mancuso500	Ginny Smith 1,000
Donna Funk-Smith 1,000	Glenn Martin250	Stacey Smith3,000
Bob Gail 1,000	Jennifer Mathias250	Elaine Specht 1,000
Nina Hale 250	Roz McIntosh.....250	Mary Turner 500
Sandra Himelright 250	Margie Miller250	Sandy Ward..... 500
Robbin Holland..... 500	Misa Mulroney250	Russ Watkins 1,000

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.

A Magical Visit to Frelinghuysen Arboretum Donna Wilkins Downing

On August 1st, while vacationing in northern New Jersey, we decided to drive south about 15 miles to visit the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township, New Jersey. Earlier in the week, we went into New York City to see the famous Highline Garden and the New Whitney Museum of Art. At the time, we didn't know that our visit to "Frelinghuysen" would become the highlight of our entire week!

The mansion at the 127-acre farm was built in 1891, and it is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture. This was built as a summer home for the Frelinghuysen family and was designed in the style of an English country estate. The family called it "Whippany Farm," and they spent 40 summers there. Daughter Matilda Frelinghuysen inherited the 127 acres from her parents, and she participated in the plans to convert it to a public arboretum in memory of her parents. It was bequeathed to Morris County in 1969 and entered on the state Register of Historic Places in 1977.

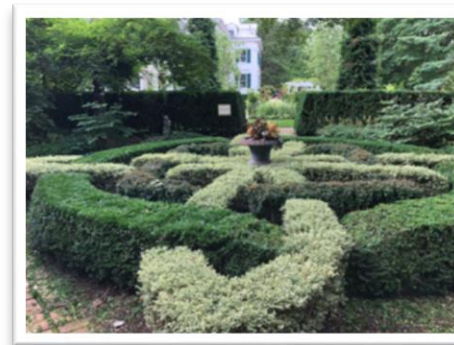
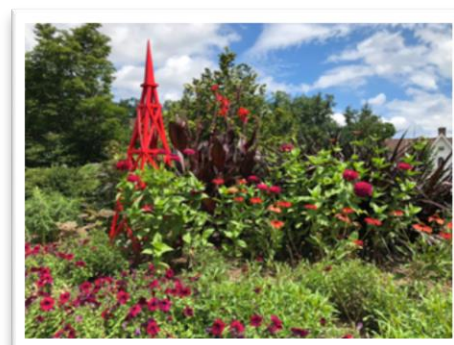
Upon our arrival we parked and were immediately drawn to a terrific red garden in front of the education center. The red garden was large and contained four bright shiny red obelisk-shaped structures. The structures were surrounded by massive amount of red perennials, annuals and vegetables, as well as small trees and shrubs. It was a most effective display. It made all who approached it feel happy, with its tones of red.

Closer to the educational center, we came across a blue garden, as well. This was another fantastic design and very different from the red garden. Children were studying in a nearby vegetable garden, and the happy sounds of the children were gratifying.

After thoroughly enjoying this initial area, we drove to the nearby mansion. I was fascinated by the mansion, as it was lovely but not in good condition. We asked a park ranger why the mansion was closed and in rather rough shape. He explained that the mansion contains plaster frescos and many architectural details. The fire commissioner of Morris County and the National Trust cannot decide what to do, long term, with the mansion. The fire inspector states that it will need a sprinkler system, for starters, in order to open it to the public. The National Historic Trust does not know exactly how to go about the work and at the same time, save the fine details of the mansion. Quite a conundrum! Also, it is going to take massive amounts of money to do all of the work needed. Poor Whippany Farm! Our dampened spirits did not last for long because the gardens around the mansion were perfectly lovely. We walked through rose gardens, water gardens, shade gardens, and by a lovely boxwood knot garden, too!

The carriage house was very well done, as well. They had five fine examples of the old carriages used at Whippany from 1896 through 1908. Many classes and other creative exhibits existed there, too. I thought the "human sundial" was pretty unusual. You place yourself on a certain stone near the sundial, and your own shadow tells you the time of day! Interesting!

This jewel tucked in Morristown was just a delightful outing for us, and I would recommend it to anyone who is in the northern New Jersey area! Learn more at the website of [The Friends of Frelinghuysen Arboretum](http://www.frelinghuysenarboretum.org). (Photos by Donna Downing)



Kids & Extension Master Gardeners Lynn Hoffmann

The **Junior Master Gardener Homeschool** program starts its 10th year in 2020. In the beginning we didn't have as many Extension Master Gardeners as today and we had a hard time getting enough volunteers to work with the children. It was also difficult back then to find kids and parents that wanted to learn about gardening and the horticultural world.

We began a great relationship with Tammy Epperson, the 4-H Technician in Frederick County. Tammy and her 4-H program was our springboard to reach kids and families in the area. This relationship started a very successful **Junior Master Gardener program for homeschool kids** and a great program at **Greenwood Mill Elementary School**. We have taught an estimated 150 homeschoolers and 500 elementary students in the years that we have done these programs. We now have about 15 Extension Master Gardeners that sign up every fall and spring for these programs.

We have had a lot of successes in our programs. A great example is Dillon. He and his Mom went to a class when he was three years old. He has continued coming to **classes at the library** and doing workshops. Last spring he decorated a birdhouse gourd. He hung it up in his garden and had chickadees or finches make a nest and hatch babies. After the last fledgling left the nest, he entered his birdhouse in the Warren County Fair and received a blue ribbon. We have seen many of these students like Dillon grow up and go on to college or begin their working careers. We have even recruited some of their parents into the Extension Master Gardener program, where they are now teaching kids.



Many of our Junior MG volunteers have also jumped into the **Nature Surprises for Kids workshops at the Bowman Library**. We are in our third year giving children a monthly program. The classes range from 5 to 15 kids at a time, and the topics are picked by the Extension Master Gardener as one that they enjoy teaching and is of interest to the kids.

Frederick County is active with other kids programs, too. The **Timbrook Garden and the Fremont Street Nursery Program** reaches about 50 children at the pre-school age. These students are introduced to gardening by growing their own vegetables and flowers in raised beds. Now they have a greenhouse where they will be able to plant seeds and see how they develop before they put them into the garden. Timbrook Gardens is part of a community garden area where our members have planted a pollinator garden and interact with the residents and children in Winchester.

Extension Master Gardeners also provide classes to local schools on a class-by-class request. When schools hear about our programs they all want to expose their students to our program.

Warren County is working on a **Junior MG program** and hopes to have some programs going into classrooms along with after-school programs soon.

Shenandoah County Extension Master Gardeners teach in the **4-H summer camp**, and there is an established **Children's Garden** at the Strasburg Community Garden.

Page County MGs participate in **local school programs** and have a great relationship with the Page Board of Education.

Clarke County was the first county in our area to begin the **Roots and Shoots program** nearly 20 years ago.

If you have children in the area, encourage them to sign up for our programs or to request a program at their school. If you're an Extension Master Gardener, consider signing up for Children's programs. We need instructors and helpers.

Kids are our future, and they are so interested in the environment and how things grow. You have the opportunity to volunteer in the schools or at our many events. If you want more info just ask. Email me at gwendydog@gmail.com.

October

- 20 Association Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 3 p.m.*


November

- 13 Children's Nature Series at Bowman Library, 6 p.m.
 14 Board Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 6 p.m.*
 17 Annual Association Celebration Party at Warren County Government Center, 3 p.m.*
 21 Adult Library Series at Handley Library, 6:30 p.m.

December

- 7 Adult Library Series at Bowman Library, 2 p.m.
 11 Children's Nature Series at Bowman Library, 6 p.m.
 12 Board Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, 6 p.m.*

Starred Events Open Only to Association Members & Guests




Join the Northern Shenandoah Valley MASTER GARDENERS!

The CLASS of 2020 is GOING DIGITAL

At-home reading with online classes and hands-on workshops.

January - June 2020



Learn about gardening while volunteering to help your community as an Extension Master Gardener volunteer in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. You'll support Virginia Cooperative Extension in its educational mission to provide research-based horticultural information to the public through teaching, project work, and other activities.

- Workshops scheduled throughout the region: Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, Warren
- Information/Registration Sessions this fall in each county:
 - Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 6:00 PM
MidAtlantic Farm Credit Conference Room, 125 Prosperity Drive, Winchester
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Clarke VCE Office, 524 Westwood Road, Berryville
 - Saturday, November 9, 2019, 10:00 AM
Shenandoah VCE Classroom, 600 North Main St., Suite 100, Woodstock
- Class information, schedule, and updates on [Facebook.com/NSVMGA](https://facebook.com/NSVMGA) and at nsvmga.org/join.
- For more information by email, sign up at bit.ly/NSVMGAnews.
- Tuition: \$175

All active, emeritus, honorary, & adjunct members are invited to our

YEAR IN REVIEW, MEMBER RECOGNITION, AND BOARD/BUDGET VOTE

Annual Association Party

Sunday, November 17, 3:00 p.m.
 Warren County Government Center

Please bring a dish or finger food to share.


Save the Date!

Seed Exchange
 January 25, 2020 @ Blandy Experimental Farm

Gardening Symposium
 March 7, 2020 @ Shenandoah University

GardenFest & Master Gardener Plant Sale
 June 6, 2020 @ Belle Grove

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The Editor's Pollinator Garden

Stacey Morgan Smith

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I'm a fall gal. I love when a day starts and ends cool but gets comfortably warm in the middle. The only thing I don't like about this time of year is saying good-bye to "my" pollinators. As of October 1st, I still have five Black Swallowtail caterpillars on the culinary fennel (including this dark color variation at far right), and the skippers are still speed sipping from flower to flower, but the daily visits from big butterflies have significantly slowed.

Fall is also a time of slowing down, looking at the year and analyzing what succeeded and what didn't. It's a time to plan ahead with what you can add and what you might want to remove. (If you remove plants, consider donating them to our annual Plant Sale fundraiser, which supports, in part, our educational programs.)

Do you want more butterflies in your garden? If you add the right plants this fall (or plan to add then in spring), you may see some of the pictured caterpillars in your garden. [Here's a list](#) from PennState Extension to help with your planning.

Fall this year also means stepping down from the role of Newsletter editor. I've loved putting together *Shenandoah Valley Gardening* over the last two years and appreciated the opportunity to finally use that Virginia Tech English degree. Please join me in welcoming new editor Joyce Watson, a recent transferee from Albemarle-Charlottesville Piedmont Master Gardeners. She was a member of the Newsletter team there and looks forward to editing for NSVMGA in 2020.

I look forward to supporting the Extension Master Gardener program in other ways. Along with Elaine Specht, I'm leading VCE's NSVMG trainee class of 2020, and I accepted the role of Volunteer Coordinator for our unit. You can also find me on Facebook, so "stop by" anytime to chat!



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Winter Issue Deadline: January 1, 2020.

Email articles or events to NSVMGANewsletter@gmail.com.

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