

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

April, 2013

Don't forget—1st quarter time sheets are due!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings will be the third Sunday of the month, and we will meet at 4pm. All will be pot luck. Each county coordinator will be responsible for providing the eating utensils, plates, coffee/drinks. (Check with hosts of private homes if you have any questions.)

- **Sunday, April 21, 4pm, Warren County Government Center, Front Royal, “Being a Good Neighbor to Natural Areas” presented by Dr. Woodward (Woody) Bousquet**, professor of environmental science at Shenandoah University. His focus will be on how gardening and landscaping practices can be carried out to minimize our impacts on local streams, forests and protected natural areas.

Directions: From the north end of Front Royal (I-66 exit 6 or Virginia Route 55 from Strasburg), take US Route 522 south. After you cross the second bridge (South Fork of The Shenandoah River), turn left at the stop light. Follow until you come to the next stop light and turn left onto Commerce Avenue. Proceed through the 6th Street light and come three more blocks (Post Office sign will be at the corner of 3rd & Commerce Avenue). Turn right onto 3rd Street, and the County Government Building is on the left. From the south end of Front Royal, take US 340 north through town. Turn right onto 2nd Street at Autozone. Go 2 blocks and turn left after you pass Warren Avenue into the Government Center parking lot (just before you get to the stop sign at Commerce Street).

- **May 19, 4:00 p.m.** – Phoebe Reeve, Herbalist, will speak on, “Herbs and Health Care” to be held at Belle Grove located in Frederick County.
- **June 16, 4pm** – Dave Sowers will speak on, “Buy Local, Buy Fresh” to be held in Page County.
- **July 21, 4:00 p.m.** – Speaker TBA. The meeting will be held at Blandy.
- **August 18, 4:00 p.m.** – Speaker TBA. MG John Stevens will host the meeting at his home located in Winchester.
- **September 15, 4:00 p.m.** – Speaker TBA. Intern Carolyn Farouki will host the meeting at her home in Clarke County.
- **October 20, 4:00 p.m.** – MG Richard Stromberg will speak on, “Native Plants” at the Valley Farm Credit Site Bureau located in Winchester.
- **November 17, 4:00 p.m.** – Annual Election to be held at the Warren County Government Center located in Front Royal.

OTHER EVENTS

- **Saturday, Apr 13, 10am-Noon, 21st Annual Calmes Neck Wildflower Walk, Clarke County.** Gary Fleming, Vegetation Ecologist, Division of Natural Heritage, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), will lead this VNPS registry site walk along the Shenandoah River. Rich mesic forest and ravines promise a spectacular show of Bluebells, Twinleaf, Blue Cohosh, Columbines and many others. The walk is moderate, but expect to climb over downed trees. We plan a gathering by the river after the walk. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a sack lunch, water, and a folding chair. To RSVP and get driving directions contact Jocelyn Sladen at piedmontvnps@gmail.com.
- **Thursday, Apr 25, 5pm, Trillium Walk, Fauquier County.** Evening Trillium Walk at Marjorie Arundel Trillium Trail at Thompson WMA. Contact Sally Anderson piedmontvnps@gmail.com
- **Tuesday, Apr 30, 9am-12:30, Marjorie Arundel Trillium Trail Walk, Fauquier Counties.** Retired Professor of Biology Marion Lobstein will lead a walk at the VNPS Registry Site in the Thompson WMA to see the Trilliums and other wildflowers. Sponsored by the Foundation of the State Arboretum. FOSA members \$8, nonmembers \$10. Carpool from Blandy. Call 540-837-1758 ext 224 for details.
- **Saturday, May 4, 1 PM Plant and Seedling Swap** at the Samuels Library in Front Royal

- **Saturday & Sunday, May 4 & 5, Wildflower Weekend at Shenandoah National Park,** Appreciate the diversity of wildflowers growing in the Blue Ridge. More than 1,300 species of plants thrive in Shenandoah National Park, a haven for native woodland wildflowers. Choose among many activities at the Park website <http://www.nps.gov/shen/planyourvisit/index.htm>
- **Sunday, May 5, 1pm, Cedar Creek Battlefield Walk, Frederick County.** Flower walk in Cedar Creek Battlefield in Middletown. Contact Sally Anderson at piedmontvnps@gmail.com for details.
- **Saturday & Sunday, May 11 & 12, 9am-4:30pm, State Arboretum Garden Fair, Clarke County.** Select vendors with perennials, small trees and fine items for garden and home. Also: children's activities, gardening information, food and much, much more. Directions at www.virginia.edu/Blandy.
- **Sunday, May 12, 10am, Second Sunday Walk, Clarke County.** Native plant walk at Blandy during Garden Fair.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Cy Haley

The Dreaded To-Do List.

I have way too many gardens, yet I'm loath to give up any of them. In fact, I continue to think up new gardens to put in and complete revamps of the ones I already have.

This long drawn out winter isn't deterring my overzealous daydreams either. It's actually encouraging them. I know I'm going to try to do too much and exhaust myself once spring finally arrives, and I'm not alone. There's a lot of you thinking and planning just like me. You're wondering how you're going to get everything done with the good weather days being robbed from us.

On top of our gardens needing tending there's the demands of the job, house, farm, church, family, etc., etc., etc. At times we feel like we're being pulled in too many directions and we're overextending ourselves. And if that's not enough, oh no, now we need to get our hours in for VCE MG. Ugh! Makes you want to rethink this volunteer thing right? Well, not me and probably not you either, when you really think about it.

I admit that I get overwhelmed at times but I truly look forward to my volunteer hours. It means I'm going to get to spend time with other MG volunteers. I have a husband who would like nothing better than to concrete in all areas around our house and call that a yard. He doesn't understand the need for green, so, when I get around MGs, I get to talk about and listen to the calming, blessed world of horticulture.

It means I'm going to get to talk to homeowners who really want to learn about the best ways to create and tend to their gardens. There is nothing like pointing someone new to gardening in the right direction for raising their own vegetables or planting their own flower garden.

It means I'm going to learn new things that I can put into practice in my own gardens as well as share with the public. Sometimes I think I've learned all I can about lawns, but each time I sit in on a landscape lecture I hear something new. And VCE is always coming out with cutting edge research on a whole array of horticultural subjects.

So, even though I know I'm looking upon a never ending list of to-dos, and I'm going to be sore and tired every evening starting soon, I also know I'm going to get a little break every now and then and get to spend some time with my MG friends. And for me that's the rejuvenation I need to get me through that long list.

Now, how about you? Are you getting signed up for those hours you need? Have you contacted your County Coordinator to let them know you're ready, willing, and able to start volunteering? If not, do so soon and go be amongst friends who believe planting green is so much better than concrete.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Helen Lake

Glorious spring! Can it really be? Today was my first full day working out in my garden beds, and boy, those Spring Muscles are singing. Now where is that Ben-Gay?

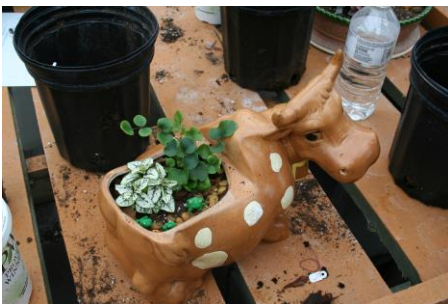
Crocus, early daffodils, like Tete a Tete and some straggling snowdrops are competing for space with my lush and fragrant hyacinths. My 'girls' (as I call my honeybees) were happily diving in and out of anything in bloom while I cleaned and clipped around their buzzing forms. For me, seeing my honeybees in flight has me sigh in relief for they have survived the winter and are ready to help me in the gardens!

March's Miniature Garden Workshop was a great success. As luck would have it, I had a bad head cold and missed out on the fun, but heard from quite a few Master Gardeners (along with proud photos of their creations) that it was an enjoyable afternoon at the Natural Art Garden Center with Lynne Philips. Hopefully, my friend and fellow Master Gardener, Laurie Cocina won't mind if I share her creation with all of you.

Donna Funk-Smith, our Communications and Publications officer has posted the rest of 2013 speakers, topics and meeting sites on the NSVMGA Web Site calendar. Many of the speakers and topics chosen were based on your input on issues of interest and relevancy.

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING by Mary Craig

The March meeting was held at Natural Art Garden Center in Toms Brook. Manager Lynn Phillips gave a great hands-on presentation and workshop on miniature gardens. We all had a fun time making our own unique versions of these tiny landscapes. Some were whimsical (Suzanne's Cow) and some would make beautiful backyard landscapes (Denise's pool). All were very original and we thank Lynn for providing a great selection of plants for us to choose from. Members were also free to purchase any of the great miniature accessories that the garden shop has for sale. Everything from tiny chairs to fancy arbors.



I will get all the pictures on the website so you can see how creative everyone was. There were finger foods, although most were too busy creating to eat. There were a few snowflakes but that didn't deter us.

CLARKE COUNTY REPORT by Mary Craig

We are working on finding a time to have our planning meeting in. We have all our project forms filled out, submitted and approved, so we are ready to go. Anyone in any of the other counties is always welcome to come give us a hand at the Farmers' Market or the Clarke County Fair. As always, the spring and fall events at Blandy, Garden Fair and Arborfest, are considered NSV Master Gardener projects, not just Clarke so we'll be passing the signup sheet around for Garden Fair soon. Think about what day and time you'd like to help. It's always great to come early for your shift so you can shop for those hard to find plants and garden items.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE by Lynn Hoffman

I hope all that attended the Symposium enjoyed the speakers and the great food and location at Shenandoah University. Thanks to all the MG that helped pull the event together!

Our next education event will be Gardenfest 2013. It will be on June 1 at Belle Grove Plantation. We have 3 speakers for the morning event:

- 9:30 David Means Revitalize your shrubs by pruning
- 10:30am Dr. Greg Peck from AREC
- 11:30 Mary Stickley Godenez Rejuvenating your Garden.

If you attend their lectures you would receive 1 hour of Education time per speaker.

We will have lots of opportunity for interns and MG to create a table top display on a gardening topic. Helen Lake is in charge of the education events at Gardenfest, so please let her know if you are interested in putting anything together.

College Scholarship: Our first MG Memorial Scholarship has been sent out to all the colleges and universities of Virginia. Thanks to Matt Windt and Brenda Powell for their help in getting the information disseminated. Applications are available on the website for any college junior majoring in a field relating to horticulture.

MANTIS EGG CASINGS by Lynn Hoffman

As you start your spring cleanup, be on the lookout for your beneficial insect egg casings. One of the common (and largest) ones you will see are mantis egg casings. Do you know which variety is the smaller? The native Carolina Mantis (*Stagmomantis Carolina*) egg mass is packed in rows and is smaller than the introduced Praying Mantis (*Mantis religiosa*) and Chinese Mantis (*Tenodera aridifolia*). All eat bugs, good and bad ones. Try to keep these in your landscape until late spring. The mantis nymphs will hatch in early to mid-May.



Carolina Mantis egg mass



Chinese/Praying Mantis egg mass



LOGO CONTEST!

2013 marks the 20th anniversary of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners! We would like to celebrate, in part, by having a 20 year logo contest. The rules are posted on the members section of the webpage. I know we have some very creative people in the group, so I can't wait to see what you all come up with. Send entries to mcorneliac@centurylink.net.

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

Do you remember what March was like last year?