

NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

August, 2012

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, August 19, 4pm, Clarke County, State Arboretum at Blandy Herb Garden.** Carrie Whitacre on Herbs in the Garden. Dress for the weather for we will be walking outside.
Directions: The State Arboretum is on U.S. 50, one mile east of U.S. 340.
- **Sunday, September 16, 4pm, Frederick County,** Janet Heishman of Gabalot Gardens will discuss fall planting ideas and tips.
- **Sunday, October 21, 4pm, Shenandoah County,** place to be announced. The speaker will be Gary Deonis and the topic is Orchids.
- **Sunday, November 18, 4pm, Warren County Government Center, Front Royal.** Annual business meeting and lectures
- **December.** No meeting

OTHER EVENTS

- **Sunday, August 12, 1pm, Virginia Native Plant Society Second Sunday Walk.** Dickey Ridge Trail. Join master naturalist Richard Stromberg for a 2 hour hike on the Dickey Ridge and other trails in the Shenandoah National Park, leading past overgrown meadows of old homesteads and a stream. This is a fairly easy walk. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, bug spray and sunscreen. Meet at the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center, just before milepost 5. Request information at piedmontvnps@gmail.com.
- **August 12 – 18, Clarke County Fair.** Clarke County MGs have been working a booth at the fair for several years now and have a strong presence there. If you want to volunteer contact County Coordinator Mary Craig at mccorneliac@centurylink.net and she'll get you signed up.
- **August 24 – September 1, Shenandoah County Fair.** MGs have manned a booth at the fair for many years and fair goers seek them out. Shenandoah County is also our largest agricultural county and you'll experience the full spectrum of fair exhibits. Contact MG & Past President Bob Carlton at bobnsam@shentel.net if you want to volunteer.
- **Friday September 21, 2012 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Waynesboro Plant Health Care for Urban Trees Workshop - Trees: Fifty Shades of Green,** presented by Waynesboro Parks & Recreation, Trees Virginia & the Department of Forestry. Cutting edge speakers for thought provoking dialog on making our communities *better through trees*. This year's lineup features a timely discussion on tree risk assessment as well as tools to put the "park" back into our parking lots. More information and registration at [Health Care for Urban Trees Workshop](#).
- **Proposed tour of the Ginter Gardens in Richmond at Christmas.** Angie Hutchinson needs feedback about a proposed tour of the Ginter Gardens in Richmond at Christmas. Proposed date is Tuesday, December 11, leaving Winchester at noon, with one other possible pickup near Route 66 in Front Royal. Tuesday was selected for caroling in the gardens and the lights and should be less crowded than a weekend. The trip is being put together by Shrock Tours at our request. We would need 36 people for it to be a go. The cost would include transportation, dinner, and possibly a tour. Return would be around midnight in Winchester. Cost is estimated at \$89.00 per person. The tour would be open to anyone, not just MGs.

We have had requests for trips, but we need real feedback on organized bus trips or any type of trips. Would members prefer ideas on car tours or caravans? Or perhaps just a list of all the available one day visits in our area (100 mile radius?). Give Angie your input.

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER SCHEDULE by Lynn Hoffman

August 7	Work in the garden	
August 14	Garden Class Room	Make Hypatufa pots
August 21	Work in the garden	Bring home your Hypatufa
August 28	Work in the garden	
Sept 4	Garden Clean Up Day	
Sept 11	Jr Master Gardener Graduation Ceremony	
	Lunch at Wesley United Methodist Church	

WINCHESTER JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS by Lynn Hoffman

Members of the 2012 Junior MGs made "garden kid" scare crows for the C-Cap garden in Winchester, where their classes are held. The kids come and water the garden and harvest the veggies and then we have a class. They also made garden accents out of wire, beads and dowels. Any MG that is interested in coming to help can come to the garden on Sharpe Street in Winchester starting at 9 AM. If it is raining, class is canceled. If you want to check on the status of any class you can call the Winchester Extension office at 540-665-5699.

TIME SHEETS

If you haven't done so already, please get your time sheets in to Susan Garrett as soon as possible. If you are an Intern and have reached your 50 hours, we need them recorded before we can order your name badge and certificate. Remember to fill in the Contact Reporting section at the bottom. If you have any questions on filling it out please contact Susan, Mary Craig, Teri Merrill, Marsha Burd, or Carolyn Wilson. You can email your timesheet to Susan at SusanSGarrett@yahoo.com or mail it to her at 303 Archer Ct, Berryville, VA 22611.

ONLINE COURSES FOR EDUCATION HOURS by Susan Garrett

Getting education hours is often difficult for people with irregular schedules. We do have the possibility of receiving education hours credit for online courses. VCE offers web classes from time to time at the Extension Virtual Campus (eXtension).

1. When WEBINARS are offered our Volunteer Coordinator is notified. We had two earlier this year and Cy Haley (acting Volunteer Coordinator) forwarded those on to the Master Gardeners.
2. Also, the VIRTUAL CAMPUS CLASSES count as credits toward educational hours. The link for them is <http://campus.extension.org/course/index.php>. Scroll down to "Yard & Garden" and click on it. Right now there are two classes up, "Life Cycle of the Japanese Beetle" and "The Power of Pollinators". There's a 10 question quiz and a certification of completion you can print out.
3. On the Index page, the website also lists "Master Gardener" under "Yard & Garden". These courses are for Master Gardeners but they are Region Specific. Right now most of them are for other regions of the US and require "key" codes to access them.
4. VCE posts classes from time to time and the Volunteer Coordinator will send out emails notifying the membership when the Volunteer Coordinator is notified of any new classes. MGs have up to 10 weeks of access to the classes and most are for 1 hour.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES by Suzanne Boag, Secretary

See [Board Meeting Minutes on NSVMGA Website](#)

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES by Suzanne Boag, Secretary

See [Meeting Minutes on NSVMGA Website](#)

MONTHLY MEETINGS by Mary Craig

If you missed the July meeting at the home of Tom and Lesley Mack, you missed a good time. We had a brief business meeting followed by a tour of their extensive landscape: shade gardens, pond gardens, and more types of trees than in some arboretums.

This was followed by our usually delicious potluck, definitely worth the drive. If any of you want to go to meetings, but don't know how to get there or want to save on gas, think about carpooling. There is usually someone else willing to carpool. Remember, the membership list on the webpage is broken out by county, so you can see who is near you and contact them.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE by Mary Craig

The final cutoff for everyone to return their forms regarding their status is fast approaching. We will finalize the membership list for this year and I'll get it posted as soon as we're done. Again, if you have any corrections or additions to your information, please let me know.



GEORGE HADELER by Mary Craig

Our Master Gardener community was saddened by the recent death of George Hadel. He became a MG in 2001 and the Page County Coordinator in 2002. He helped out at GardenFest by sharpening tools. He was very active in Page and will be missed by all of us.

FREDERICK COUNTY by Teri S. Merrill

We held our "real" Greenline at the Lowes on Pleasant Valley in Winchester for four Saturdays in June. Most weeks, we had about 8 or 9 people stop by and chat or ask questions over the course of two hours. The last weekend, most people were busy with clean up after the huge storm in this area, so very few stopped by. Overall, it was a great first attempt to get out to meet the public where they shop and gather. Thank you to those members who volunteered for this project. It will be up to you, the county members, to decide if this effort is worth continuing next year, either at a different location or a different time of year.

As of this writing, we are gearing up to have a table at the Frederick County Fair this year after a short hiatus. Thank you to those who volunteered to man this project. Keep in mind that every attempt that we make to meet the public and be present where they gather helps to increase our name recognition and credibility.

Thank you to the many members who helped out and gave speeches to various garden clubs and groups this past spring and summer. We had several requests and each one was fulfilled in a timely manner--that's incredibly important for us as an organization.

I'm not going to continue in this role next year, so I'm formally asking for a member or two to step up and take over this volunteer position, beginning in December. I'm happy to help you and guide you for the next several months, so please consider this request.

CLARKE COUNTY by Mary Craig

Our Farmers' Market is going well. We set up by 9:00am and stay until noon. It's really a lot of fun and you get to meet a lot of very nice people. We've had wonderful commitment from everyone this year. We have had two people each week, sometimes three and have only missed one week due to rain. We like to have a veteran MG with any new interns, but we welcome new people to sign up and learn how we do things at the Farmers' Market. Contact Mary Craig at mcorneliac@centurylink.net if you would like to volunteer.

We also have slots open for the Clarke County Fair if you would like to help. The first three nights are full but we need help from Wednesday August 15th through Saturday August 18th. We will set up by 5:00pm and stay until 8:00pm. E-mail Mary Craig if you are interested in helping.

This August chapter meeting is in our county at Blandy. We will provide water and coffee. If everyone brings their own cup/mug we can save room in the landfills.

FLUVANNA COUNTY by Johan Guss

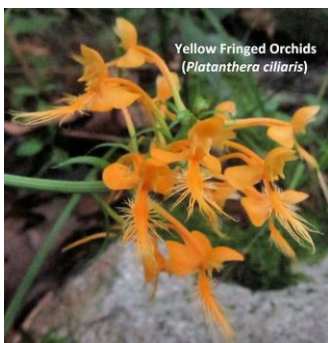
Ron and I met with the Fluvanna Master Gardeners for the first time last month. There were about twenty there (only three men). Their "president" had asked me to speak about Master Gardener College, as NO ONE from Fluvanna County went. I greeted each person as they came in the door, told them my name and that I "hoped" they would have Ron and I as members. They had a lengthy business meeting and then I got to talk. First of all I told them that we had left Fluvanna County to move to New Market, our four kids graduated from Fluvanna High School and, after the last one had graduated, we moved to New Market and lived there twenty two years. Now we're about a half mile from where we lived in this county the first time.

They have a lot going on: the helpline, table at the farmer's market, eleven garden plots where they grow vegetables for the local food bank, and a County Day the first of August. They were talking about their booth for the county Day and discussed having their theme be "bugs" and getting plastic bugs from Oriental Traders. Also Fluvanna just built a new high school. The MG's had gardens at the old one and now have to clean them up and move all the stuff (top soil, compost bins, storage unit, etc.). One lady said she was paying her teen age grandsons to help. Several people came up to talk to us afterward and we exchanged phone numbers with three.

We have raised beds here and, with all the heat, the vegetable plants are plush. It's a jungle out there. We're eating tomatoes, cucumbers, yellow squash and onions. Ron pulled the lettuce and planted something else.

You are encouraged to come for a visit. It is an easy two hour drive.

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg



Yellow Fringed Orchids
(*Platanthera ciliaris*)

In March the Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society's Second Sunday Walk was a loop in the Massanutten Mountains starting at the Mudhole Gap parking lot across from the Elizabeth Furnace Campground in Fort Valley.

One of the attendees told the leaders that Yellow Fringed Orchids (*Platanthera ciliaris*) grows near the parking lot. So I went back in July to see. About 150 yards from the parking lot on the left fork of the fire road, I turned left where the road turns back towards the right fork and left the dry, floristically uninteresting road to enter the darker woods. A pond, about twenty feet across, is a few feet inside the woods. Where a creek, small enough to step across, enters the pond I saw a Yellow Fringed Orchid blooming—only one, but I saw several of the single, basal leaves of other plants.



Seedbox
(*Ludwigia
alternifolia*)

Next to the orchid was another wet-loving plant, Seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*), with yellow flowers typical of the Evening Primrose (Onagraceae) family. The flowers will turn into the cubic pods that give the plant its common name.

Walking around the pond, I found a patch of Peat Moss (*Sphagnum* spp.), so the pond outflow has created a small bog.



Peat Moss
(*Sphagnum* spp.)

Beyond the pond I discovered some large St. Andrew's Cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*). I often see them in drier places, but much smaller, so they must enjoy the moisture too. They get their name from the shape of the flower.



St. Andrew's Cross
(*Hypericum hypericoides*)

The British flag ("Union Jack") has the right-angled cross of St George (patron saint of England) superimposed on the cross of St. Andrew (patron saint of Scotland), which does not have ninety-degree angles. The scientific name used to be (*Ascyrum hypericoides*). *Ascyrum* is an ancient Greek name for some plant. *Hypericoides* means like *Hypericum*. The genus *Hypericum* is St. Johnswort. The leaves and yellow flowers of St. Andrew's Cross look like St. Johnswort except the St. Andrew's Cross flower has four petals and St. Johnswort's has five. Taxonomists recently changed Saint Andrew's Cross to *Hypericum hypericoides*. So the scientific name means "St. Johnswort like St. Johnswort".

QUIZ OF THE MONTH

Lynn Hoffman suggested we have a quiz question every month. She suggested the first question.



What is an Allelopathic Plant?

Send your answers and questions for future months to Richard Stromberg at risy@embarqmail.com