



# VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER



## Special Master Gardener College Issue!

Spring 2004

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Master Gardener College

June 10-13, 2004

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Dear Master Gardener,

Let me begin by saying it is a pleasure to be in Virginia and a bigger pleasure to be serving you as the VCE State Master Gardener Coordinator. For those of you who have greeted me by e-mail, phone, or an office visit, thank you for the kind welcome and your tremendous hospitality. I consider it a privilege to be at your disposal and to represent you here in Blacksburg. I look forward to meeting you all and I hope that I get the opportunity to do so at Master Gardener College.

This year marks the 17th year of Master Gardener College (MG College) and we hope to continue to build upon successful Colleges of the past and provide an inspiring and educational experience for all that attend. The pre-College sessions on Wednesday have been modified this year to be relevant, not only to new MG Coordinators, but also to veteran MG Coordinators that have an interest in MG management strategies. Some of the topics to be discussed on Wednesday include, "Achieving Satisfactory Certification Rates," "Dealing with Difficult MGs," and "Generating Reports with the State Record Keeping System." This training day is open to anyone who has or will potentially have a leadership role in a local MG Unit.

The General Session Speakers for this year will be excellent. We will be visited again by Marion Lobstein and she will provide an intriguing talk on the exportation of native Virginian plants to Europe in colonial times. We will also hear from several presenters with international botanical experiences ranging from Europe to the Far East to South America. In conjunction with international horticulture, we will learn about the Virginia Plant Introduction Program that utilizes plant seeds from other countries in trial gardens. Lastly, we will hear from a couple of foresters on the topics of landscaping defensively against wildfires and the history of Virginia's forests.

Most of the other events we traditionally enjoy will remain the same. The 17th MG College will provide new insights and ideas to develop local programs, strengthen our horticultural knowledge and MG skills, as well as develop new skills to enable us to present effective programs to the diverse clientele served by VCE MGs. This newsletter will serve to inform you of what we have planned for MG College this year. Registration materials and housing registration materials have been forwarded to your local coordinator or agent. Registration for MG College is open to current, active MGs, and no one is better qualified to make that determination of eligibility than they are. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of online registration. However, if this is not an option, you may mail or fax your registration. Keep in mind that tours and sessions with limited space fill up on a first-come, first-served basis, and online registration will make it more likely for you to get into the sessions you really want.

Please join us for MG College this year. An opportunity to learn, have fun, and find out what other MGs are doing is a terrible thing to waste. I'll see you in June!

David D. Close, VCE State Master Gardener Coordinator

David D. Close, State Master Gardener Coordinator, Department of Horticulture



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# Master Gardener College 2004

## Schedule of Events

### Wednesday June 9

10:00-4:00 Master Gardener Coordinator Training. Pre-Registration is required for this activity. Training will be offered to anyone that currently has or will be having Master Gardener administration responsibilities. This training is appropriate for new or existing Coordinators, Agents, or other local Master Gardener Unit office holders who are interested in Master Gardener program management. Participants in this training course also are welcome to attend the Thursday morning Coordinator Update and the Master Gardener College program. (Be sure to register for these programs if you plan to attend.)

### Thursday June 10

9:00-11:00 Master Gardener Coordinator Update. This is an update meeting for all local Master Gardener Coordinators to discuss new issues for Virginia Master Gardener programs. At the conclusion of the meeting, coordinators are welcome to stay the weekend and enjoy Master Gardener College. (You must register for Master Gardener College if you decide to attend.)

11:00-12:00 VMGA Board Meeting

12:00-1:30 Lunch

### Pre-College Programs

1:30-5:00 "Tuscan Herb Gardens." Staff, Meadowbrook Gardens Nursery. We'll actually get our hands dirty and put together an interesting selection of culinary herbs in Tuscan style. We'll hold our workshop on the upper patio overlooking the water gardens. Wanda, the GH manager, has a cooking background and may be persuaded to share a little about the culinary part for the workshop attendees. It's just a simple, fun way to spend an afternoon and take something home. Pre registration will be required. An activity fee in the \$30 range will be collected at the Nursery to cover the cost of annual and perennial herbs, instruction, soil mix, a pot, and perhaps a "Tuscan snack." This class is limited to 15 participants.

1:30-5:00 Tour of Area Gardens and Stores. Do-It-Yourself Self Garden Tours. Unguided tour of interesting gardens and garden shopping spots in the Blacksburg area. You will receive a map, a list of gardens to visit, and a letter authorizing you to visit some of the private spots on this tour. Visit as many or as few as you'd like.

1:30-3:00 Tour of the Virginia Tech Gardens. Stephanie Huckestein, Head Horticulturist at the Virginia Tech Hort Gardens, will facilitate an in-depth tour of the Hort Gardens including the new collections and the rock stream addition. This tour is limited to 25.

3:30-5:00 Greenhouse Tour. Stephanie Huckestein, Head Horticulturist at the Virginia Tech Hort Gardens, will give a tour of the Virginia Tech Horticulture Greenhouses. This tour is limited to 25.

1:30-5:00 Afternoon Garden Tours. Delbert Jones, New River Valley Master Gardener. This year's tour will once again visit some of the area's most interesting gardens. Register early because this tour is strictly limited to those who can fit into the tour vehicles. - NO TAILGATERS this year. This activity is limited to 25. There is a fee of \$5.00 associated with this class.

1:30-5:00 Higo Garden Bonsai Workshop. Jerry Pike, Higo Bonsai Garden. After an introduction to the creation and care of Bonsai, participants will craft their own bonsai creation to take home. This activity is limited to 12. An activity fee of \$32.00 will be collected at the Nursery to cover the cost of a Bonsai pot, supplies, soil, and a plant.

1:30-5:00 Virginia Tech Laboratory Tour. Visit the Soils Laboratory, the Plant Disease Laboratory, and the Insect Identification Laboratory. Tour their facilities and get a brief presentation by the staff at each stop.

3:30 - 5:00 Herbarium Tour. Tom Wiebolt, curator of the Virginia Tech Herbarium, will discuss preparing herbarium specimens and show the extensive collections of the Herbarium. Included in the collection are several locally extinct (extirpated) species of plants. Tour size limited to 15.

3:00-5:00 Insect Walk. Eric Day, Virginia Tech Entomology Department Insect Identification Lab, will

give a campus walk identifying insects of concern as well as beneficial insects. This walk will occur rain or shine, and will require some walking. Wear suitable clothing and "sensible shoes." This activity is limited to 15.

5:00 - 7:00 Dinner

7:00-10:00 Opening Salvo featuring Diane Relf and Brag Night Poster Session. Brag Night Posters presented. We will be bringing back the ever popular awards for the best Brag Boards. An overall winner will be selected, as will a Brag Board that represents each one of the Sustainable Landscape Management Principles. Use this opportunity to meet and greet other Virginia Master Gardeners. This is also a chance to exchange program ideas through poster displays. Plan to present a Brag Night Poster of your Unit's best accomplishments. For more information or to register a poster for Brag Night (reservations for tables are required), submit the following information to VMGA no later than May 20, 2004: Unit name, name and contact information of the responsible person, and if a full or half table will be needed. Submit the information using the [www.vmganet.net](http://www.vmganet.net) web site, or (if you must) submit it to Jim Scibek by snail mail 4194 Goldmine Road, Goldvein, VA 22720-2110 (540)439-2040.

## Friday, June 11

8:00-8:45 Welcome to Master Gardener College and General Announcements.

8:45-9:45 Fantastic Voyages. Marion Lobstein, Flora of VA Project and NOVA Community College. This presentation will highlight the history of botanical exploration of colonial Virginia with an emphasis on species of native plants that were sent to Europe for horticultural and medicinal purposes.

9:45-10:15 Break

10:15-11:00 Plant Exploration in Southeast China. Alex Nimiera, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech.

11:00-11:45 The Virginia Plant Introduction Program. Greg Eaton & Alex Nimiera, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. After the plant seeds come back from China (and other places) they are slated for trials and possible horticultural introduction in Virginia. Learn about the Virginia Plant Introduction Program.

12:00-1:30 Lunch

Concurrent Sessions. You will be able to select an activity in each of these two afternoon sessions.

## Session 1

- 1 1:30 - 5:00 Educational Programming Training. Jerry Gibson, Educational Programming, Virginia Tech. You need to complete this programmatic training to participate in any of the Steward Programs (Water, Tree, or the new Land Care Stewards). This two-part class is designed to fulfill that requirement. This activity is limited to 25. There is a \$30.00 fee associated with this class for the production of the Programming Manual. Please note that registering for this program entails both afternoon sessions.
- 2 1:30 - 3:00 Recognizing and Gardening in Wet Soils. John Galbraith, CSES, Virginia Tech. That wet spot might just be a wetland! Learn how to identify a wetland and how to garden accordingly. This is a two part class that includes a trip to the wetland section of the Virginia Tech Hort Gardens. Please note that registering for this program entails both afternoon sessions.
- 3 1:30-3:00 How to Use a Dichotomous Key. Marion Lobstein, Flora of VA Project and NOVA Community College. See some gallys of the Flora of Virginia, and learn how to use them with some Virginia natives. She will have some Flora of West Virginia on hand.
- 4 1:30-3:00 Small Fruit in Home Gardens. Tony Bratsch, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Learn how to select and grow Raspberries, Blackberries, Strawberries, and other favorites in the home garden.
- 5 1:30-3:00 Hypertufa. Dave Davis, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. This popular class will teach you how to create simulated stone planters from peat moss, cement & sand. Bring your own mold such as an old pot or a small cardboard box. This activity is limited to 22. There is a fee of \$10.00 associated with this class.
- 6 1:30-3:00 Turf Grass Disease. Dave McCall, CSES, Virginia Tech. Learn a systematic

approach to identifying and managing the diseases of turf grass.

7 1:30 - 3:00 Tree Walk with a Tree Geek. Jay Stipes, Virginia Tech. This informative walk will take place rain or shine. Tour the Virginia Tech campus with a renowned tree pathologist. Wear comfortable shoes! This tour is limited to 15 but will be offered again in the second afternoon session.

8 1:30-3:00 Micropropagation Lab. Suzanne Piovano, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Learn about tissue culture techniques and micro-propagate a few plants to take home with you. This activity is limited to 15 but will be offered again in the second afternoon session. There is a fee of \$10.00 associated with this class.

9 1:30-3:00 Hardy Garden Ferns. Holly Scoggins, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Recently, many ferns have become available to the home gardener. Dr. Scoggins will discuss their culture, garden use, and show some eye-catching newcomers.

10 1:30-3:00 Greenhouse Management. Joyce Latimer, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Successful greenhouse management involves optimizing the plant growing environment while minimizing conditions conducive to disease and insect problems.

3:00-3:30 Break

## Session 2

1 1:30 - 5:00 Educational Programming Training. Jerry Gibson, Educational Programming, Virginia Tech. Continued.

2 3:30 - 5:00 Tree Walk with a Tree Geek. Jay Stipes, Virginia Tech. This informative walk will take place rain or shine. Tour the Virginia Tech campus with a renowned tree pathologist. Wear comfortable shoes! This tour is limited to 15, but it is also offered in the first afternoon session.

3 3:30-5:00 Micropropagation Lab. Suzanne Piovano, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Learn about tissue culture techniques and micro-propagate a few plants to take home with you. This activity is limited to 15 but is also offered in the first afternoon session. There is a fee of \$10.00 associated with this class.

4 3:30-5:00 Use of Beneficial Insects to Control Weed & Insect Pests. Loke Kok, Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech. Researchers are using insects to help control weeds and insect pests. Learn the latest.

5 3:30-5:00 Problem-Solving in the Greenhouse. Joyce Latimer, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Get an overview of common problems and easy solutions in the greenhouse.

6 3:30-5:00 Perennials in the Gardens. Holly Scoggins, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Holly will lead a small tour through the Horticulture Gardens pointing out and discussing some notable and useful perennials. Students meet at the Virginia Tech Hort Gardens. This tour is limited to 20. Register early!

7 3:30-5:00 Gardening with Mosses. Delbert Jones, New River Valley Master Gardener. Gain familiarity with the mosses of Virginia, their cultural requirements, and pests. If you bring your own container, you can make a miniature moss garden to take home with you. This activity is limited to 30.

8 3:30-5:00 Insect Pests in the Home Landscape and "Soft" Control Methods. Ed Lewis, Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech. What is eating my \_\_\_\_\_? Can you answer this question when the client calls? Learn to identify and manage those common landscape insects using some interesting techniques.

9 3:30-5:00 Horticulture in Central China. Greg Welbaum, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Greg recently spent two weeks in mainland China investigating horticultural practices. He will share with you the surprisingly high tech approach to vegetable production as well as the state of ornamental horticulture in China.

10 3:30-5:00 Turfgrass Weed Management. Shawn Aske w, CSES, Virginia Tech. Master Gardeners get many complaints about weeds in home turf. This presentation will go over the most frequent weeds and a systematic method to manage turf grass weeds.

11 3:30-5:00 Nematode Pests Of Plants: Their Biology And Control. Enrique Perez, Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech. Nematodes are important horticultural pests. Learn a little about them including their life history and control methods.

## Saturday, June 7

- 8:30-8:45 Announcements
- 8:45-9:45 Virginia's Forest History. Tom Dierauf, Forester Emeritus. What history can teach us about forests, farmland, and current land-use practices.
- 9:45-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:30 Flowering Plants of the Galápagos Islands: Wretched Weeds or Awesome Adaptations? Conley K. McMullen, Department of Biology, James Madison University. Conley will be discussing the endemic, native, and exotic flowering plants of the Galapagos Islands, their current status, and future prospects.
- 11:30-1:30 Lunch

Concurrent Sessions. You will be able to select an activity in each of these two afternoon sessions.

### Session 1

- 1 1:30-3:00 What is on the Shelf at Home and Garden Centers? Mike Goatley, CSES, Virginia Tech. Mike is the new Turfgrass Specialist. He is going shopping before College to see what is out there for your lawn. Some things may be good, others may be witchcraft. Learn what they are and what to say to your clients.
- 2 1:30-3:00 Photographing the Garden. Jeannie Couch, Prince William Master Gardener. Discover the basics of photographing the flowers in your garden with professional photographer Jeannie Couch. In this lecture and slide show, emphasis will be on composition, close-up techniques, and the equipment needed. There will be handouts with notes from the class so that soon you too can be taking pictures like the pros!
- 3 1:30-5:00 Elementary Landscape Workshop. Robert McDuffie, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Students will design a garden courtyard in this double session. Class size is limited to 20. Apply early! Please note that registering for this program is for an entire afternoon session.
- 4 1:30-3:00 Ecology of Plant Establishment. Roger Harris, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Why do new plantings fail? This presentation will help us understand the necessary factors to ensure successful planting of woody ornamental landscape plants.
- 5 1:30-3:00 Forest Aesthetics. Shawn Baker Department of Forestry, Virginia Tech. Many Master Gardeners and their clients live close to wildlands. Learn how to enhance these areas and live with them using principles of sustainable forestry.
- 6 1:30-3:00 New Equipment and Techniques for Garden-Scale No-Till Systems. Ron Morse, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. We've listened to Ron talk about no-till and been dismayed that we couldn't really do what he suggests. Hear about his newest research into garden-scale equipment that even Master Gardeners might be able to afford.
- 7 1:30-3:00 Pesticide Update. Peter Warren, VCE Agent, Albemarle County. Find out which chemical controls are off the market or leaving the market and why. Learn how to advise your clients with pesticide questions.
- 8 1:30-3:00 Regionalizing Urban Water Quality Education. Greg Eaton, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Recent national and regional initiatives seek to promote interstate collaboration in new water quality educational programs. Master Gardeners in the Chesapeake Bay Area are likely to be called upon to provide a considerable amount of the outreach effort for some of these programs.
- 3:00-3:30 Break

### Session 2

- 1 3:30-5:00 Essentials of Web Authoring. Many units depend on electronic means to keep their unit and their clients informed. Learn which elements are crucial to a successful web site. What should you include? What should you leave out?
- 2 1:30-5:00 Elementary Landscape Workshop continued. Robert McDuffie, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Students will design a garden courtyard in this double session. Class size is limited to 20. Apply early!
- 3 3:30-5:00 Fund-raising for Master Gardener Groups. From garden guides to teaching classes to plant sales, different Master Gardener groups have tried many ways to raise

money for their mission. Learn more about how to and how not to go about fund-raising including the issue of sales tax.

- 4 3:30-5:00 How to Prepare the Forms to Obtain Tax-exempt Status for Your Non-profit Organization. Kerry Goldmeyer, Chesapeake Master Gardener, Past President and Past Treasurer of VMGA will give instruction on how to fill out IRS Form 1023 to obtain 501(c)(3) status. She has asked that any questions you might have in advance be forwarded to her at goldmeyer@cox.net.
- 5 3:30-5:00 Is There an "E" in Garden Faire? Several Master Gardener Units put on very successful fairs, and horticultural events. This session will deal with the preparations for different types of public garden events.
- 6 3:30-5:00 Organizing a Tree Stewards Program. Peninsula Tree Stewards. A team of Peninsula Tree stewards will discuss how they formed, the training they require, and give examples of some of their projects and programs.
- 7 3:30-5:00 Implimenting Master Gardener Steward Programs. Pat Reilly, Master Gardener Coordinator, Prince William County. This session will be of interest to those units contemplating a stewards program as well as those whose Master Gardener Steward programs seem to have stalled.
- 8 3:30-5:00 Ready Set Grow - Junior Master Gardening and Other Youth Programming Issues. A panel of Master Gardeners with experience in the varying types of youth programming will share their ideas about youth.
- 9 3:30-5:00 Teaching Garden Programming. Several Master Gardener groups maintain very successful teaching gardens using different techniques. Learn how to start, and manage a demonstration or teaching garden, and how to use it for educational programming.
- 5:00-6:30 Dinner
- 6:00-7:00 Silent Auction
- 7:00-8:00 VMGA Business Meeting
- 8:00-9:00 Awards Ceremony. Master Gardener Service Award recipients will be recognized. If you are due to receive a Service Award, make sure your Coordinator has updated the reporting system. We will use it to find out who has achieved the necessary hours of service.
- 9:00-? Master Gardener Do-It-Yourself Party.

## Sunday, June 13

- 8:45-9:00 Announcements
- 9:00-10:15 Gardens of Italy. Robert McDuffie, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech. Visit the romantic gardens of Italy and see what you miss when you don't go on vacation with Robert McDuffie.
- 10:15-10:45 Break
- 10:45-12:00 Firewise Landscaping. Fred Turck, Virginia Department of Forestry. How you landscape can have an important effect on your ability to survive a wildfire. Learn the concept of defensible space and Firewise Landscaping.
- 12:00-2:00 Lunch and Swap Plants as You Leave. Everyone is invited. Pack up your car and come dressed for your trip home. Enjoy a picnic lunch. Remember to bring some of YOUR favorite plants to Master Gardener College (you can drop them off at the registration desk) and then at the picnic you will "swap plants" ("...there's always room for more plants"). Stay and enjoy the gardens or swap and run.

## 2003 Brag Night Poster Winners

SLM 1: Hampton

SLM 2: Northern Shenandoah

SLM 3: Loudon

SLM 4: Gloucester

Who will take away the coveted trophies this year?

## Master Gardener College Attendance Challenge

The Washington County Master Gardener Association has been challenged by the Henrico County Master Gardeners.

May the best represented unit win!

## General Information

**MG College Promotional Material:** A CD-ROM has been sent to your local coordinator or agent that highlights the events and experiences of MG College. These CD's were prepared by Eleanor Ames, Page County Master Gardener, and narrated by Frank Reilly, Prince William Master Gardener.

**Scholarships:** The VMGA is sponsoring six \$100 scholarships for Master Gardener College. You can get additional information and a nomination form at their website [www.vmga.net](http://www.vmga.net). Some local units offer other scholarship opportunities as well. You can also ask your local coordinator or agent for additional information.

**Registration:** Get registration information from your local MG Coordinator or Agent. This year you will be able to register, by mail, telephone, fax or on the internet. Registration is open to active MGs. Registration will open on May 1. Please contact your local MG Coordinator or Extension Agent for registration details.

**Housing:** Get housing information when you ask about College registration. We will again be in the dorms, but local hotel information will also be available. We encourage you to pair up with a roommate in double occupancy rooms if possible.

**Meals:** If you are staying in the dorms, you may purchase a meal ticket that gives you access to the cafeteria for all your meals. If you are staying off campus, you can still purchase meals in the cafeteria and enjoy the company of other Master Gardeners during meal time.

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify David Close, Department of Horticulture, at 540-231-2714 or 800-828-1120(TDD) during business hours of 8am and 5 pm.

SEE YOUR MG COORDINATOR OR AGENT TO  
OBTAIN REGISTRATION AND HOUSING  
INFORMATION

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