



## OFFICERS

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**Jack Kelzer**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
**Mary E. Vetovec**

2nd Vice President  
**Marty Janner**

Treasurer  
**Allen Earehart**

Recording Secretary  
**Gina Polich**

Corresponding Secretary  
**June Walker**

## COMMITTEES

Master Gardener Training  
**Cynthia Seal**

Programs  
**Mary E. Vetovec**

Continuing Education  
**Marty Janner**

Horticulture Helpline  
**Lyn Dodge**  
**Carol O'Toole**

Finance  
**Betty Fahed**

Communications  
**Jody Taggart**

Hospitality  
**Peggy Lowry**  
**Shelby Earehart**

Service and Recognition  
**Joyce Carole Brannon**

Historian  
**Joyce Carole Brannon**

4-H Youth / Junior Master Gardeners  
**Sherry Kerley**

Plant Clinic  
**Dave & Joanie Brobst**

SMART Lawns  
**Stephanie Feaser**

Special Events  
**John Simmonds, Judy Burton**

Website  
[www.co.henrico.va.us/agent](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/agent)

# The Garden Gate e-Newsletter

June - July, 2006

## Association Meetings

**June 14, 1:00PM**

### Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

We will have a year end review, elect officers and sign up for committee work. Get involved and share your ideas! The following members have been nominated to serve as officers of the Association for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

President:	Mary E. Vetovec
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Ann Dutton
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Teddy Martin
Treasurer:	Allen Earehart
Recording Secretary:	Gina Polich
Corresponding Secretary:	Beverly Cochrane

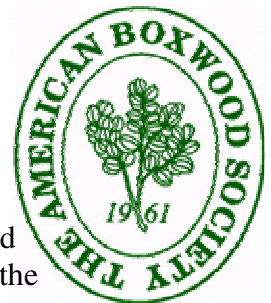
**July 12, 1:00PM**

Randy Buchannan from Henrico Public Works will present timely summer information on mosquitos and West Nile Virus. He will speak about the most current methods to reduce the mosquito population and to identify and prevent the West Nile virus. Questions about mosquitos are frequently asked on the Helpline.

**August 9, 1:00PM**

### Boxwood Care and Use

Eddie Goode, from The American Boxwood Society will speak about the care and use of boxwoods. Richmonders love their boxwoods and this presentation will include new introductions, the right boxwood for the right place and treating boxwood pests and diseases.



# President's Message



I want to thank everyone for your confidence and support these past two years that I have served as president of the Master Gardener Association. We accomplished a great deal during these 24 months and it could not have been done without the volunteering of time and talent by our MGs and the support of our County Extension staff.

I would especially like to thank the officers and committee chairs for their leadership and hard work.

It has always been my philosophy that whatever you do whether it be work, sports or volunteering, you should have fun doing it. I've had lots of fun as a Master Gardener.

Are You Having Fun Yet?

Jack Kelzer

## Milestone Awards



### 4000 Hour Award

Peggy Lowry

### 2000 Hour Award

Joyce Brannon

### 1000 Hour Awards

Carol Colby

Cynthia Seal

### 500 Hour Awards

Elizabeth Cooke

Shelby Earehart

Jack Kelzer

Connie Lilly

### 250 Hour Awards

Sandy Ashworth

John Coe

Jackie Dean

Faye Derkits

Allen Earehart

Marty Janner

Carol LaVigne

Betty Parker

Gina Polich

Alice Preston

Patricia Schultz

Claude Seal

Mary E. Vetrovec

## MG College Scholarships Available

Henrico MGs will receive their Milestone awards at MG College this year and a discount to attend MG College. Anyone who doesn't pick up their award at MG College will get it at our December Reception. MG college discounts can carry over for one year. So if there is anyone who got an award last year, but would like to attend MG College this year, they can let me know and I will issue them another discount ticket. -Stephanie

# Getting To Know John Simmonds



John became a master gardener in 1998 and is co-chair of the Special Events Committee. His wife, Marcia, was also a master gardener but realized that she didn't really like gardening. John says, "She rather likes her husband having a garden and telling him what to do in it." John has always been interested in interacting with people and helping to solve their gardening problems. At special events he likes setting up booths, the excitement of activities, and the energy at the scenes.

John grew up in Indiana and has lived in Richmond for 15 years. He has a B.S. in math and zoology and a M.S. in statistics and actuarial science.

John's favorite flowers are irises and hostas. He has a collection of twenty different hostas. Although he likes vegetable gardening, his yard doesn't receive enough sun. He is excited to be a part of the proposed "teaching garden" at the new Tuckahoe Library – "a great site that can grow into a wonderful demonstration of master gardener creativity and skill."

John also collects antique toys, and he says he's one of the few master gardeners still having a full time job.

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## Spicy Cheese Bites



2 cups flour  
½ tsp salt  
½ tsp onion powder  
1 cup butter or margarine  
2 cups grated sharp cheddar (8 oz)  
1 cup finely chopped pecans  
2 tsp caraway seeds  
½ - 1 tsp ground red pepper

Cream the butter and cheese. Stir in dry ingredients, then nuts, then cheese. If dough is too soft to shape, cover and refrigerate until easy to handle.

Roll into small balls. Flatten slightly on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 18 minutes. Can be frozen.

Peggy Lowry

## Henrico Master Gardeners and the America's Anniversary Garden (AAG) What Is It and How You Can Get Involved!

“**Plant America’s Anniversary Garden**” is a new marking plan developed by VCE to support the Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. In 2007, Virginia will mark the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. The commemoration begins this month in May 2006 and will last for 18 months. During that time, many organizations, government agencies, and businesses will partner to sponsor educational programs, cultural events, fairs and entertainment throughout the Commonwealth. VCE has developed the America’s Anniversary Garden to help individuals, communities and groups mark America’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a signature garden planting in red, white and blue.



The hope is that all across Virginia, city and town entrance corridors, public gardens, sidewalk containers, hanging baskets, residential lawns, and other forms of gardens and landscapes will display red, white and blue plantings in 2006 and 2007. The idea is that every Virginian can have an anniversary garden. VCE is asking Master Gardeners and MG Associations to help spread the word and build partnerships. VCE has developed an extensive public website, [www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden](http://www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden), with links to several publications including two new publications “Plant America’s Anniversary Garden” and “America’s Anniversary Garden: A Statewide Corridor and Entrance Enhancement Program”. **Both publications include plant lists and design ideas. All MGs should look at this website to see what is available.** You will even see Henrico’s Special Events booth featured in the photo section.

What have we done so far to promote the America’s Anniversary Garden concept and what can you do in the future? Our special events committee has done three outstanding booths featuring the red, white and blue theme at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show, the Spring Home Show and the Southern Women’s Show this spring. Master Gardeners are also asked to promote the Anniversary Garden when appropriate in the office, on the helpline, at plant clinics, and during speaker’s bureau presentations. Please education yourself about AAG by visiting the website, then share the information with your neighbors, homeowner’s associations, churches, garden clubs, schools, or other organizations.

Remember, Master Gardeners are extension educators. We can provide information to groups, give advice, and make recommendations, but we can not be depended upon to fund, design, install, or maintain gardens for other groups. You can work with other organizations to guide them towards establishing an AAG garden by writing it up as a special project. The groups then should take ownership of the funding, final design, installation, and maintenance of the garden however. Let me know of any groups that have installed Anniversary Gardens and forward me digital photos if you can. VCE is asking each office to keep track of all local AAG events, display gardens, and programs as well as the number of MG volunteers involved. If you have any questions about AAG or how you can get involved, please contact me.

Stephanie



### *Junior Master Gardeners*

Sherry Kerley reported that Tuckahoe Elementary canceled the program at the last minute. The Junior Master Gardeners program will not run this spring.

## Special Note for Intern Master Gardeners

This is the last newsletter that you will receive until you pay annual association dues. Come to the annual meeting on June 14, 1:00pm to meet the new officers and join for the 2007 year. We would like to meet you and welcome you to the association.

## Behind the Shed

*This is a new section of the newsletter where members can give away plants, cuttings, seeds and other garden items with other members. You could also find a partner for a trip or maybe someone to help with a special project. Send in your contribution!*

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☀ From Jackie Dean (737-1986)

There is a great spot to pick blueberries about 45 minutes from eastern Henrico. Contact Jackie for more details.

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☀ From Pat Greene, [pats\_greene\_garden@verizon.net]

Perennial Groundcover Available:

Chinese Sedum ('Sedum tetractinum') from Tony Avent's catalogue. Spreads quickly in sun and shade but is easy to keep within bounds. Perennial. Has a sculptural quality like a prostrate jade plant.

Nandina Plants Available: 12-18" You dig!

Looking For Small Succulents For My Tufa Plants:

Both hardy and tropical varieties. Have non-hardy varieties to exchange.

This Is A Great Way To Dry Herbs:

Buy 1/3 of a yard of bridal tulle from a fabric shop (cost is \$2. per yard) Cut a section about 12" wide by 16" long. Roll fresh herbs jelly-roll fashion in the tulle. Fasten the ends with twist ties. Pin on a small note indicating the date two weeks later when they should be fully dry. Place on a refrigerator shelf, not in the crisper. Air circulation in the fridge will dry them beautifully with great flavor retention. Martha Stewart said that this method came from a grandmother of one of her employees!

Daylily Info:

I am looking for daylilies that will do well in about 5 hours of sun a day. I've had success with 'Valentine', 'Virginia Henson' and 'Joan Senior'. Also those that prosper despite vole problems. Many of my "Trophy Takers" brand simply seem to disappear. I've lost 'Brocaded Gown', 'Jolyene Nichole', 'Hot Embers' 'Royal Occasion', and 'Sunny Honey'. Any suggestions?



# A Little Bit about...Crabgrass

*By Peggy Lowry*

**T**here was no crabgrass growing in America when the white man arrived, nor were there any cattle, sheep, hogs or horses. By the mid 1800's there was a real need for good forage for the thousands of domestic animals that were being bred and imported. Although the U.S. Patent Office introduced crabgrass as a forage crop, it was not widely promoted and was soon forgotten—for awhile.

The late 19th century saw a large number of immigrants from Poland and central Europe who came with the opening of free land in the west and the rapid industrialization in the east. Not knowing what they would find in the new world, most of them brought a variety of crabgrass seeds that they knew would grow anywhere to produce food for their families. They called it “manna grain” because it thrived



in many types of soil, grew rapidly, and produced a rich harvest—a sure crop. Crabgrass is a type of millet which can also be planted late in the season and still produce a good crop. As expected, the seeds produced bountifully. But when the immigrants saw that the harvest from wheat and corn grown here took so much less work and sold for so much more money, they abandoned their millet crops. The seed escaped, grew everywhere and today has spread throughout the nation.

The very features for which the crabgrass was valued made it ultimately the number one pest in lawns. Large crabgrass is also troublesome in temperate and tropical zone crops. In over 56 countries it has become a weed in over 33 crops. In the U.S. it is one of the three most serious weeds in cotton, sorghum, orchards and vineyards. It is also a serious weed in lawns because the stems are usually prostrate and below the mower blade, and rapidly growing seedlings can soon crowd out the preferred grasses. A large crabgrass plant can produce 150,000 seeds in temperate zones, and even move in the tropics where it grows and flowers all year.

It is, however, a good forage crop for cattle in the south. It thrives in hot, dry conditions, grows a foot or two, and makes good green pasturage and a highly nutritious hay crop of substantial value. There are about 500 species of millet, and it was the first grain cultivated by man. It was grown by the early Lake Dwellers in Switzerland and in pre historic times in India and Africa. Millet seeds have been found in China that date back to at least 2700 B.C. Most Crabgrass species (*Digitaria*) have from 3 to 12 finger like spikes producing minute flowers and bearing hundreds of seeds. Thirteen weedy *Digitaria* species infest the United States, and one pound of their seeds contains about 100,000 seeds. Even today in some parts of the world, these seeds are still gathered as a staple grain for bread and porridge. Ada George wrote in 1914, “The seeds of this grass must be very long-lived, for, though it is never sown, let the ground be cultivated, and as a general thing, crab-grass will be there.”

# Association Committees

The Master Gardener Training Committee will provide training for future Henrico Master Gardeners. It will recruit trainees and screen applications to the HMG program subject to guidelines established by VCE. It will provide documentation of training for participants each year.

The Advanced Master Gardener Training Committee will plan and coordinate educational activities sponsored by the Association. This will include, but is not limited to, documenting those activities necessary for Master Gardeners to retain their active status in the HMG program.

The Horticulture Helpline Committee will coordinate the orientation and scheduling of Master Gardeners for telephone duty and maintain the hotline's reference library.

The Finance Committee will assist the Treasurer in preparing and submitting an annual budget to the Board of Directors for their approval and recommendation to the Association. It will review the financial transactions of the Association, and plan and coordinate fund-raising projects to continue the activities of the Association.

The Hospitality Committee will coordinate refreshments for regular meetings of the Association, continuing education sessions, the annual volunteer recognition reception, and any Association social events as requested by the Board.

The 4-H Youth Committee will help plan and implement learning activities in horticulture in cooperation with the Henrico 4-H program.

The Communications Committee will foster communication among the Association's members and local community and will publish a newsletter.

The Special Events Committee will recruit and schedule MG interns and veterans to answer gardening questions from the public at various events throughout the Richmond-metro area (i.e. the Maymont Flower and Garden Show, the Richmond Home Show, and the State Fair of Virginia) They will ensure that the appropriate resources (tables, chairs, Extension publications, etc.) are provided for each clinic.

The Smart Lawns Committee will coordinate all aspects of the Smart Lawns Water Quality and Protection Program for Henrico County. This program prepares MGs to work one-on-one with participating homeowners to teach them the best management practices for turf.

The Service and Recognition Committee will keep a record of volunteer work time and continuing education time contributed by each Henrico MG and provide for the recognition of these volunteers for their service to VCE.

The Historical Committee will keep written and pictorial records of HMGA and MG functions and activities. This committee will be chaired by the Historian, who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Presentations Coordinator develops and provides resources for volunteers to present programs to civic organizations.

The Plant Clinic Committee will recruit and schedule Master Gardener interns and veterans to answer gardening questions from the public at various commercial garden centers in the spring and fall each year. They will ensure that the appropriate resources (tables, chairs, Extension publications, etc.) are provided for each clinic.

# Annual Dues Notice

Please complete this registration form and return it along with your check for \$12.00. Dues may be dropped off or mailed to the extension office or handed to the Treasurer (Allen Earehart) at a meeting.

## Henrico Master Gardeners Association Membership Registration Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please continue to mail me the newsletter

I prefer my newsletter be sent by email. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to: Henrico Master Gardeners Association

### Mail To:

Henrico Master Gardener Association  
P.O. Box 27032  
Richmond, VA 23273-7032

## Annual Dues Have Changed

The annual association dues are now twelve dollars per year. The board agreed on an increase to cover the cost of association business and projects. The dues have not increased since 1997.

# Meeting Date Reminders

June 2006						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	<b>7 1PM Board Meeting</b>	8	9	10	11
12	13	<b>14 1PM ANNUAL Meeting</b>	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2006						
					1	2
3	4	<b>5 1PM Board Meeting</b>	6	7	8	9
10	11	<b>12 1PM Member Meeting</b>	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Please e-mail your contribution to the newsletter  
 By **July 20** to Jody Taggart  
[jody.taggart@comcast.net](mailto:jody.taggart@comcast.net)