



The Garden Gate Newsletter

August – September 2009

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Dave & Joanie Brobst

SMART Lawns
Teddy Martin

Special Events
John Simmonds & Judy Burton

Websites
www.co.henrico.va.us/agent
www.henricomga.org

Henrico Harvest Fair

Saturday, September 19, 2009

8:30am-4:00pm

Armour House and Gardens at Meadowview

We still need YOU if you can volunteer!

- We need a volunteer to chair the Green Elephant Committee. (Contact John Sartin, jcsrt80@comcast.net, 270-2135 or Jack Kelzer, jkelz@comcast.net, 527-0579)
- We need donated items for the Green Elephant sale including: baked goods, potted plants, garden decor items such as statues and gently used garden tools. Any items can be dropped off at the Extension office or brought to the fair. Please put a sticker (masking tape works) on the item with a price. Last year all the baked goods sold out. We have books left over from last year so we don't need books this year.
- We need a few more volunteers to work in the demonstration tent. Those of us who were there last year had fun! (contact Grace Harrison 266-8484)

August 12 Association Meeting

We are delighted that so many of you have signed up to attend the Hypertufa workshop on Wednesday, August 12, presented by our own Mary E. Vetrovec. **If you are coming, and did not sign up on the workshop sheet, or have changed your mind about attending, please give Mary E. a call by Tuesday, August 4.** (320-4349) If you don't call, she may not have enough material for you to make a pot. You will also need to bring a container/mold approximately 13 inches or less in diameter to form your pot.

The meeting will begin at 11:30 am at Deer Run Park, located on Ridgefield Parkway (close to Gaskins Road) at SHELTERS # 4 and #5. Bring a lunch and \$5.00 cash for the materials cost. We will have a picnic lunch FIRST and then we will be ready to make the hypertufa pots.

President's Message

In the past year at our HMGA meetings you have heard a lot about openness, transparency, and inclusiveness. To further this concept we have begun putting our board meeting minutes on our website (www.henricomga.org) and we have continued to extend an open invitation to all HMGA members at our board meetings. This is truly *your* organization!



This month we are going to continue broadening our concept of openness by adding a brief section after the President's Message in the newsletter. This new section will be titled "The President Responds...". The purpose of this section is to answer questions that come our way so that all members stay abreast of information flowing through our organization. Some of the responses will be a response to a comment on our survey. Others will simply be questions that come to our leadership.

So keep those questions coming! We want HMGA to be known for keeping everyone well informed.

The President Responds...

Q: Why does the yearbook not contain the dates and topics for our monthly programs and advanced training meetings?

A: Our association operates on a fiscal year. The new yearbook is given out at the beginning of that new term. At that point in time, new officers begin work on schedules for monthly meetings and advanced training. This is possible due to time elements in place. Our VP in charge of monthly programs is required to plan monthly programs through August, two months into the new VP's term. Advanced training meetings normally don't begin until February of the following year.

The monthly HMGA meeting dates are in the yearbook. Monthly meeting topics are usually announced months in advance. The advanced training dates and topics are given out at our December meeting in our recertification packet.

-Ann Dutton annforddutton@mindspring.com 740-2514

September 9 Association Meeting: Growing Garlic with Kevin Damian

Kevin Damian is a member of the Virginia Association for Biological Farming and currently serves as Vice President. He has given presentations to the Master Gardeners of Goochland/Powhatan, the Herb Guild in Montpelier, the Garden Fest on Season Extension, and the Annual Biological Farming Conference. He has been selling vegetables for 12 years (the last 10 years at the Ashland Farmer's Market and recently at Lakeside Farmer's Market). He is known as *The Garlic Man* and will speak to us about growing garlic at 1:00pm..

Reports from Master Gardener College 2009

Master Gardener College was really great again this year. Those attending from Henrico County in addition



to me were Mary E. Vetrovec, Patty Campbell, and Lisa Sanderson. We all had rooms in New Residence Hall – East. Our suite mates were the same two Hanover Master Gardeners we shared with last year, Sherry Giese and Emily Gianfortoni. Also included was another Hanover Master Gardener, Christy Brennan, who is the Secretary for the VMGA Executive Board.

We each took different classes – my favorite being *Digital Photography* by Robert McDuffie. All of you who know me would understand why that was so very interesting to me. Patty took flower arranging and made two very beautiful arrangements. I received my 3000-hour award

during the Milestone Awards Ceremony.

Among the many famous speakers we had were: Fred Duis, Dr. Mike Raupp, Joe Murray, Nancy Ross Hugo, Bonnie Appleton, and Holly Scoggins.

Vans were provided for those of us who had physical problems. They took us to every class and event. The drivers were students who were very friendly and helpful. A special box lunch was provided at the photography class for me and others who had food allergies. I am writing this to tell all of you what a great opportunity Master Gardener College is and hope some of you will consider attending in 2010. The food is wonderful, and you get to eat all that you want; as you can see in the picture shown here.

-By Joyce Brannon

The 22nd Master Gardener College was one of the best and most well attended. THANK YOU to everyone who helped put it together. There were 275 attendees who spent time hearing great speakers, attending tours, participating in workshops, swapping plants, listening to music, enjoying the company of other Master Gardeners, plus enjoying college life with great food. It was hard to return home on Sunday.

It was announced during our Annual meeting that Governor Kaine proclaimed the week of June 14-20, 2009 as Virginia Master Gardener Week to celebrate 30 years of accomplishments. Thanks to Cheri Haggerty with assistance from Peggy Fox and Dave Close.

Master Gardener College is a great time to meet other Master Gardeners and share what goes on at the local unit level. Of those attending, five received VMGA Diane Relfe Education Endowment fund scholarships to MG College. The first two days included Leadership Development Training and Tree Steward Training. Thursday brought the rest of the Master Gardeners from across the state. Master Gardeners who had reached milestones in their volunteer hours were recognized Thursday night at the MG College Milestone Awards Ceremony. Two of our highest achievers, Cheri Haggerty (Hanover) and Karen Sacasky (Lynchburg), were recognized for 7000 hours.

It wouldn't be MG College without the Brag Boards. This year, the VMGA changed requirements of the former Brag Board competition by modeling the program after the International Search for Excellence (SFE) program. We had four SFE entries. International competition, here we come!

The Silent Auction was a big hit again this year under the leadership of Leslie Paulson and Sharon Corbin. There were many more plants than usual such as Encore® Azaleas and plants from the Beautiful Gardens® introductions. Shelby Snider, of Roanoke, made another one of her three tiered leaf water fountains for a very successful raffle. All the proceeds from both events went to the State MG Coordinator Endowment. THANKS to all the units and individuals who donated items.

Plan on being there next year, June 24-27, 2010.

-By Betty Villers, VMGA President

Reprinted from the Virginia Master Gardener Association Newsletter with permission from Betty.



Plant species are constantly being lost throughout the world as a result of habitat loss, climate change, pollution, insect and disease problems, and even over-collection. Botanical Interests is very pleased to be working with botanic gardens throughout the U.S. to protect species that are rare and endangered or may become so if not maintained. As gardeners, we can feel good about adding these attractive, adaptable treasures to our gardens. By planting them, we become responsible stewards of the environment and give a gift back to nature.

Botanic Gardens Series varieties that are perennials or biennials and can be started now through late summer for blooms next spring include: Allium Nodding Onion, Artemisia Fringed Sage, Compass Plant, Echinacea Yellow Coneflower, Gaura Butterfly, Globemallow Scarlet, Grass Little Bluestem, Ipomopsis Standing Cypress, Leadplant, Penstemon Firecracker, Prairie Blue Sage and Verbena Hoary Vervain.

There are also many vegetables that can be sown now or in late summer for a fall crop, including: Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Lettuce, Onion, Snap Peas, Spinach and Swiss Chard. And there are also plenty of other vegetable varieties that you can still plant now while the weather is warm: Amaranth Edible Red Leaf, Bush or Pole Beans, Lettuce (if started indoors), Radish White Icicle, and Spinach New Zealand.

And sow these cool season crops in late summer for a fall crop: Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Broccoli Raab, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Endive, Escarole, Kale, Lettuce (start indoors), Mustard, Bunching Onions, Parsnips, Peas, Daikon Radish, Spinach, and Swiss Chard

With so many varieties that can be planted now into early fall, isn't it funny how most gardeners do a spring planting then think it's all over? They're really missing out on a lot of delicious vegetables that they could be harvesting as the weather turns cool. Many of these cool-season crops taste better after a little kiss from the first fall frost, and you will have few problems with pests with late summer/fall plantings.

With a little planning now, you can have a colorful rainbow of veggies to start autumn. Just think of all those

delicious soups, stews, stir-fries, casseroles, and even fresh salads you will be able to make with the bounty from your garden! You've got to have something to eat with all those tomatoes...

- reprinted from *Botanical Interests newsletter*

Botanical Interests offer the **Henrico Master Gardeners Association** the opportunity to earn **15%** of all seed sales made to our members (and any of your friends who use the link). There is no tax on the seeds and the shipping is a flat \$3.95 for any size order, so you many want to combine orders with your friends.

To place an order, go to their website at www.botanicalinterests.com and click on the fourth item down on the right side ("Choose a non-profit to support with your purchase"). That will bring up a page that lists Henrico Master Gardeners Association—click on it. Once you do this and place your order it will be automatically recorded and 15% will be donated to HMGA. This money will then be donated from the Henrico Master Gardeners Association into the VT Coordinator Endowment Fund.

And in other news.....

Corresponding Secretary Theresa Hawkes would like to hear about association members who may need a card because of an illness or death.



Lisa Sanderson reports that there will be an article in Flavor magazine about the Lakeside Avenue "Gardens Growing Families" coming soon.

Newsletter and Website Submissions:

If you would like to submit information for the newsletter or website please note that I have recently changed my email address.

Jody.Taggart@verizon.net 360-2680

Yearbooks are available for Association members. If you have paid your dues and have not picked up your yearbook, ask for one at the Extension Office desk.

-Peggy Lowry

Good news! The Tree Smarts program is coming together. The training agenda is still under construction, but the proposed dates have been set and the topics selected. If you are interested in learning more about trees and tree care, put the following dates on your calendar.

There will be eleven sessions, meeting every Monday and Wednesday morning, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., starting Monday, September 9 and ending Monday, October 14. The classes will be held in the Henrico Extension Demo Kitchen. Once finalized, I will send out the complete agenda. Master Gardeners who are trained in the program will be asked to conduct educational activities in the County and respond to citizen inquiries regarding tree care.

- Karen Carter

The Extension / Master Gardener Partnership: Achieving Success by Working Together

by Karen Carter



During the years I have worked with the Henrico Master Gardener program, one fundamental question – in various forms – has come up time and time again: “Where’s the line between Extension and the Master Gardeners? Where does one stop and the other start?” In any given situation, deciphering who is responsible to whom, who makes certain decisions, which individuals should be consulted, and so on can be confusing.

HMGA President, Ann Dutton, asked me to present my thoughts on this issue at the April general meeting. It was a good opportunity for me to try to clear up some of the confusion. Then, since many of you were not able to attend that particular meeting, she asked me to summarize my presentation for the newsletter. I am happy to do so, but I apologize in advance for the length of this article! As you will see, there is a fair amount of complexity in Extension work and in the relationships we have with each other and the people we work with. What helps, however, is to keep in mind the key concept that is included in the name of our organization: “cooperative”.

Perhaps the simplest way to visualize how the Henrico Master Gardeners fit into the overall work of the Henrico Extension Office is to use the organizational chart that accompanies this article. Starting with the Unit Coordinator position, I have been given the responsibility of providing oversight for all of the educational programs conducted by the Henrico Extension Office in three broad program areas: 4-H Youth Development (4-H), Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), and Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR).

We have professional staff members— four Extension Agents and two Program Technicians— who are responsible for providing educational programs in these areas to Henrico citizens. The Agents report directly to the Northeast District Director, a position that is not shown specifically on the chart, but is part of the large box at the top labeled “Virginia Cooperative Extension”. The Program Technicians, depending upon their funding source, report either to the Unit Coordinator or to the Family Nutrition Program coordinator, who is located in the Northeast District Office.

We also have three administrative support staff members who assist the Agents and Technicians with their various programs. They report directly to the Unit Coordinator. Finally, there is a group of citizens who make up the Extension Leadership Council (ELC) that helps the professional staff decide our overall educational direction. The ELC’s role is to assist us with identifying the issues and needs of Henrico County citizens that can be addressed through educational processes using Virginia Cooperative Extension’s resources. Since VCE’s resources are limited, the ELC helps us prioritize the issues and seek additional partners or methods to address them.

In Henrico, the ANR program can be subdivided into three main audiences: agricultural producers (AG); professionals in the green industry (GI), which includes nursery production, greenhouse operations, and landscape maintenance; and the consumers of the green industry’s products and services (consumer horticulture). We refer to this last audience as “homeowners”, “residents”, or “citizens” and they are the group we ask Master Gardeners to help us serve.

Lisa Sanderson and I are responsible for leading the consumer horticulture program in Henrico, with the assistance of Horticulture Technician, Teddy Martin. This means that Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech hold Lisa and me accountable for all aspects and activities of any horticultural program conducted in the name of “Extension” in Henrico County. Needless to say, the two of us can reach only a limited number of individuals. It is all of you, the Master Gardeners, who multiply our efforts and reach out many times over to people Lisa and I may never come into contact with. You provide an invaluable service, and we refer to all of the educational programs we offer TO you and THROUGH you the “Henrico Master Gardener Program”.

Our partner in administering the Henrico Master Gardener Program is the Henrico Master Gardener Association (HMGA). According to its bylaws:

The purpose of the Association shall be as follows: (a) to administer the Master Gardener program in Henrico County in accordance with the policies set by Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE); (b) to assist with VCE’s Plan of Work in Henrico by planning, implementing, and evaluating educational programs in horticulture that enhance and/or protect the environment; (c) to foster communication, education, volunteerism, and leadership development among its members.

Therefore, the relationship between the HMGA, the Master Gardener program, and the Extension staff is a collaborative one. One way to understand a collaborative relationship is to consider three basic models that could be used (but the first two are strongly discouraged) to plan the work of an organization such as Virginia Cooperative Extension. The following explanation comes from materials provided by the USDA Forest Service that Extension uses nationwide:

*The **autocratic** model is also known as the top down method. Here the “boss” or “powers that be” or “expert” decides on what the problem is and what the situation is. The partners, employees and the public are expected to go along with the solution and carry it out.*

*In the **interactive** model of planning, stakeholders are invited to confer or advise the person in authority. The person doing the planning may consult with many people, but ultimately, the planner decides on what the problem is and devises the solutions. The partners, employees, and public again are expected to go along with the solution. They may have had a chance to interact with the planner and make some suggestions, but like all advice, the person in authority can take it or leave it.*

*In the **collaborative** planning model, the “boss” is truly a partner with the stakeholders and together they define the problem and come up with the solutions. Each of the partners in the collaboration has the right to say “no” to both the problem definition as well as the solutions. But if the partners truly value the relationship they will stay engaged until a mutually accepted solution is reached [emphasis added].*

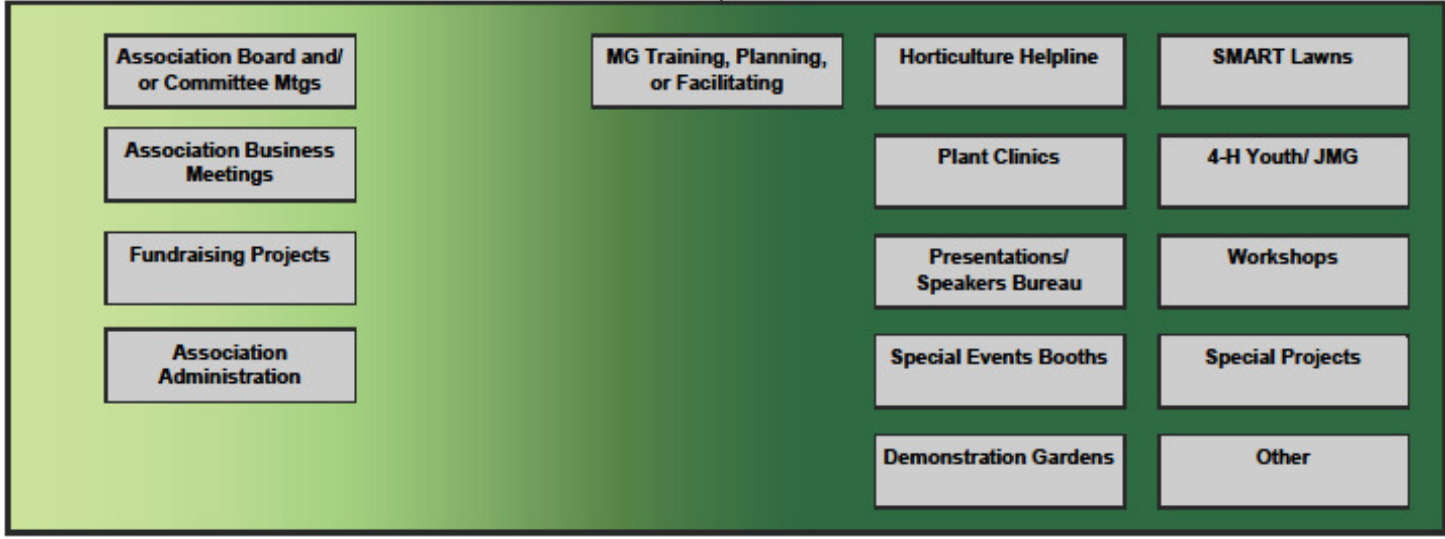
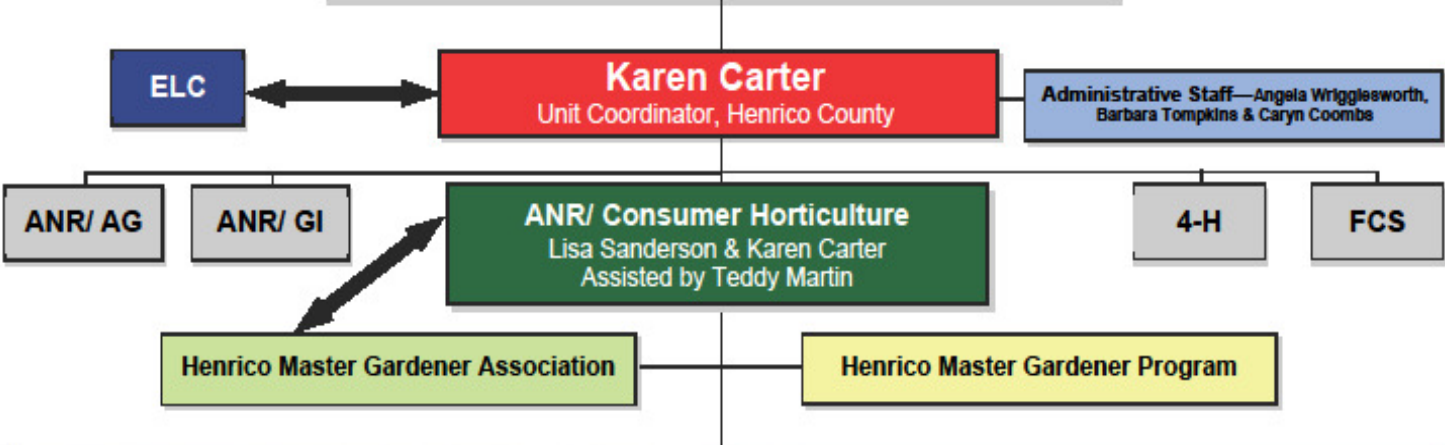
The collaborative model is depicted on the Henrico Extension / Master Gardener organizational chart by the large box at the bottom. Notice that all of the individual components inside the box are the same ones listed on the Master Gardener time sheet you fill out monthly and return to the Extension office to report your volunteer hours. The items listed on the left fall more under purview of the HMGA while the items listed on the

right are more under the purview of the Extension Office. However, there is collaboration throughout. Notice that MG training falls somewhere in the middle as the administrative duties for this activity are more equally shared.

So, what's the answer to the question posed at the beginning of this article? Where does Extension end and Master Gardening start? My answer is, "it's all intertwined." There are some things that are defined by VCE policy and procedure that govern us all when we operate in the name of "Extension". Lisa and I are responsible for applying those policies and procedures to our programs in Henrico County. However, that still leaves a lot of room for creativity in program planning and implementation. Our collaborative relationship provides a framework we can use to address the problems, concerns, issues, and opportunities that are a part of any relationship: we gather around the table to figure it out. We achieve success by working together!

To conclude, I would like to share a few thoughts about leadership. While there are many recognized models of leadership, the one I most identify with is "Servant Leadership". To my way of thinking, a servant leader's primary role is to provide others with what is needed to get a job done, whether it's training, tools, materials, motivation, or appreciation. As Master Gardener volunteers, you have been asked to "step into the shoes" of the Extension Agent and deliver educational programs to our citizens. My job is to make sure you have what you need to do that. I am here to support you, advise you, and facilitate your activities in any way I reasonably can to further the mission of Virginia Cooperative Extension in Henrico County. That's my honor and my pleasure.

Virginia Cooperative Extension



← Degree of Collaboration →

Meeting Date Reminders

Board Meetings

August 5, 1:00pm

September 2, 1:00pm

Association Meetings

Hypertufa at Deep Run Park
Aug.12, 11:30am

September 9, 1:00pm

Please submit your contribution to the newsletter
By **September 20** to Jody Taggart
Jody.Taggart@verizon.net or 360-2680