



The Garden Gate e-Newsletter

June - July, 2007

OFFICERS

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Mary E Vetrovec

1st Vice President
Ann Dutton

2nd Vice President
Teddy Martin

Treasurer
Allen Earehart

Recording Secretary
Gina Polich

Corresponding Secretary
Beverly Cochrane

COMMITTEES

Master Gardener Training
Cynthia Seal

Programs
Ann Dutton

Continuing Education
Teddy Martin

Horticulture Helpline
Lyn Dodge

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
Extension Staff

Special Events
John Simmonds, Judy Burton

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

Association Meetings

Annual Meeting

June 13, 1:00PM

We will have a year end review, elect officers and sign up for committee work. Get involved and share your ideas and time!

Proposed Slate of Officers – 2007-2008

(Submitted by Nominating Committee:
Jack Kelzer, Chairman, Gina Polich & Cynthia Seal)

President:	Mary E Vetrovec
1st Vice President:	Ann Dutton
2nd Vice President:	Suzanne Pericle
Treasurer:	Beverly Cochrane
Recording Secretary:	Holly Hartley
Corresponding Secretary:	Shelby Earehart

Gardening Ergonomics

July 11, 1:00PM



Our own master gardener Pat Greene presents information on gardening ergonomics that can help you avoid injury while pursuing your hobby. Beat the July heat and learn something new!

President's Message



Birds do it! Bees do it! Fortune 500 companies do it! And volunteer organizations and civic groups do it! The annual meeting! Sounds like a real sleeper doesn't it?

No, we will not be making tufa containers or learning about the best compost but I hope you will support your association by attending the meeting, hearing about ongoing and new projects by the various committees.

I know that each of you has a commitment to furthering horticultural and environmental education for Henrico County. And how do I know this? You each invested the time and energy needed to become a Master Gardener. Now, I ask you to continue to share that excitement that you felt with each new learning session by stepping up and participating in the Association programming. Remember if nothing about the programs interest you, work up your own committee or program and present it to the board. Hopefully we will always be evolving with new ideas. The MG Association is a group of almost one hundred not just a committee of ten

I look forward to seeing you in June and for the rest of the year. It all starts by showing up and saying YES!

Mary E Vetrovec
320-4349
mevetrovec@aol.com

Crustless Quiche

4 tbs butter or margarine
¼ cup flour
¾ cup milk
½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
1 ¼ cups small curd cottage cheese
½ tsp prepared mustard (spicy or
dijon)
5 eggs (large)
5 ½ oz cream cheese, softened
6 oz swiss cheese, grated
3 oz grated Parmesan

Melt butter and blend in the

flour. Slowly whisk in the milk and cook, while stirring, until smooth and bubbling. Set aside.

Mix the salt, baking powder, mustard and cottage cheese. Beat eggs and beat in the cream cheese. Stir this into the cottage cheese mixture.

Beat in the cooked cream sauce, swiss cheese and Parmesan.

Pour into a greased 10 inch pie plate. Place on a baking sheet and bake at 350° for 45 minutes or until a nice brown.

Freezes well.



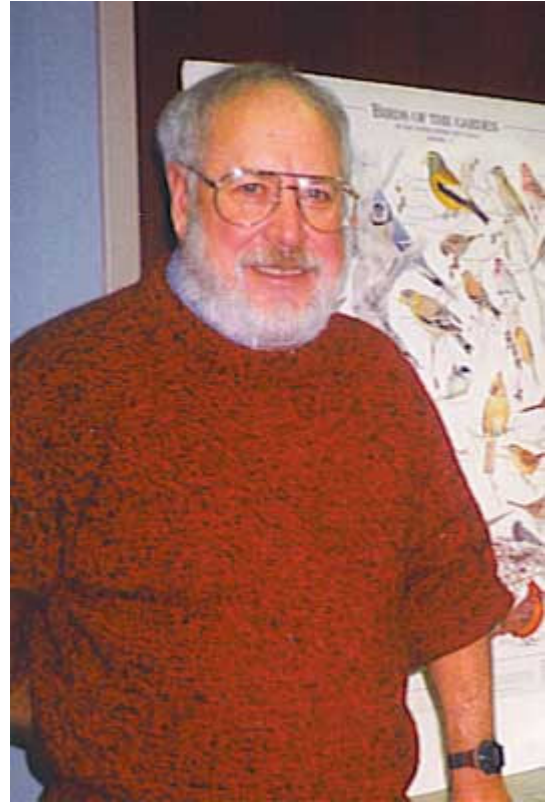
-Peggy Lowry

Getting To Know John Coe

John lives in Chesterfield County. Fortunately for us their master gardener class was full, so he applied and was accepted in the Henrico class of 1996. John has been involved in various tasks—State Fair, Home Show, plant sales at Lewis Ginter and the Speakers Bureau. Be sure to come and hear him at the HMGA August meeting when he will speak to us about birds.

John's favorites in the garden are Virginia Bluebell, Mountain Laurel, and the Sycamore, but he enjoys mostly vegetable gardening. He grew up in Winchester and Shenandoah County. He attended Ferrum College, University of Virginia, William and Mary and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with majors in Biology and Photography.

John and his wife Caroline have lived in the Richmond area for 40 years. They have two sons and one grandson. Both John and Caroline are very active in the Audubon Society (John is a past president of the Richmond Chapter). At present John is president of the Virginia Audubon Council and a part-time naturalist for the Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation. Other than gardening his hobbies are fly-fishing and birding.



Behind the Shed

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

I have extra Shiitake mushroom spawn if anyone would like it. If you have ever heard Andy Hankins' discussion on how to grow mushrooms, this is what he recommended to get started. Also, I have extra basil, cherry tomato and yellow pear tomato plants. Jody Taggart
360-2680 or jody.taggart@comcast.net



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. —Lisa Sanderson

Unique Landscape Project

By Genne Johnston



Henrico County Master Gardener Intern Harold Huey is a very special guy. Harold saw an opportunity to receive credit for volunteer hours and provide needed assistance to his church at the same time; and his mentor, Cheryl Bergh (Class of 2006), agreed. She encouraged Harold to submit a Project Approval Form. In early March, with Cheryl's help, Harold did just that. By mid-March, the project was approved and before classes ended, Harold was asking fellow classmates to volunteer for his project.

Lakeside United Methodist Church on Hilliard Road had just obtained the Gillis House. This is a large residential lot adjacent to the church. In addition to the house and large shed, the property has an abundance of older trees, shrubs and perennials. As stated in the project application, "This is an outdoor classroom project and on-the-job training for Master Gardener Interns who will examine, evaluate and recommend action to be taken regarding all growing plants and yard areas." Robin Bryant, Genne Johnston, Rick La Porta,

Kevin McClenny and Lee Pulling offered to participate. Our first on-site meeting was March 28th.

Harold organized teams to measure the lot, draw a plot, conduct soil tests and identify existing plants. During the following month, we met several times to further expand our knowledge of the site and to discuss our recommendations for improving and maintaining the landscape. Lee visited county offices to track down copies of the plot. Based on measurements of the site, Genne sketched out plots of the site as it exists and with the group's recommendations – "before" and "after" views. Kevin, Robin and Rick identified trees, shrubs and plants and what each needed to flourish. Harold supervised and collected relevant Extension articles to further assist church members in maintaining the property. Significant contributions were made by all. That is the best part of working with a group! Each individual's knowledge and know-how comes into play.

The completed report includes a copy of the Project Application, plots, photos, 22 recommendations, soil test results and an appendix of Extension articles. Thanks to Extension Office staff for their assistance with copying and binding. They made it all possible.

Project volunteers met with church staff on May 9th to present the report and share their recommendations. This was an important step in getting the new owners of the site on-board and working toward similar goals. The report gives them common ground for discussion and for making decisions affecting the future use of this wonderful property.

Thanks to Cheryl for her support and guidance. Thanks to Harold for his leadership and great idea. This type of project was a first and demonstrates one more way that Master Gardeners can be of service to the community. If you would like to see what our group accomplished, a copy of the report is available at the Extension Office.

Editor's Note: I have heard that Mr. Huey has recently celebrated his 90th birthday!!



Milestone Awards

The following master gardeners have distinguished themselves this year with the service awards which will be given at Master Gardener College and the December meeting.

2000 Hour Award

Chuck Bingley

1000 Hour Award

Margot Burgwyn

500 Hour Award

Julie Abbott
Margot Burgwyn
Jackie Dean
Faye Durkits
Dick Forrester
Betty Gillelan
Rob Walser

250 Hour Award

Belinda Ashmore
Beverly Cochrane
Wayne Ferguson
Tom Fifer
Erica Gilliam
Barbara Maiden
Teddy Martin
Janet Minock
Nancy Penick
Susan Robson
Jody Taggart

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 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

Henrico Master Gardeners Association

By Peggy Lowry

2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the HMGA. (The first master gardener class was held in 1981.) Prior to the formation of the HMGA, master gardeners put in many hours working in the office, at plant clinics, giving presentations, at the state fair and Maymont and various special projects. Over the years the master gardener program changed and grew so much that it became necessary for an organized body of volunteers to take over the administration of the program.

A group of master gardeners met many times to set up what is now the HMGA. We developed bylaws, standing rules and a list of needed committees. A meeting was held on August 13, 1997 to decide if the Association should be formed and the bylaws adopted. In September, 1997, fifty-four members elected officers and formed committees to handle the various activities of the Master Gardener Program. Up until that time, Karen Carter had handled it all! Three of the original officers and nineteen charter members in all are still active master gardeners.

The Board of Directors directs the course of the Association, setting policies and determining agenda. The Board is also a sub committee of the Henrico Extension Leadership Council (ELC). The backbone of the Association is committee structure and participation, and every member has the opportunity to become involved in the Association. In fact, members are expected to join a committee and participate. The Association complements the work done by VCE volunteers. Opportunities within the Association promote continued and advanced learning for the master gardeners and enable us to more fully serve the community. Working together we can provide more opportunities for leadership development and educational programs.

Many changes have been made since our first meeting, and every year I see continued growth and improvement from committee input and ideas from fellow master gardeners. Today we have committees and their chairs to take care of programs, projects and details that Karen would not have time to do alone. Our advisor today is our new horticulture agent, Lisa Sanderson. As of May, 2007, we have 94 members. Happy Birthday, HMGA!

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 13 at 1:00pm to meet the new officers and join for the 2007-2008 year. We would like to meet you and welcome you to the association.

Thanks

Thank you to all of the interns who have volunteered to help with the newsletter. If you would still like to work on the newsletter please consider writing something. Any topic related to Master Gardening is welcome. You could review a book, report on a class or discuss a plant. Perhaps someone going to MG college would like to tell us about it. –Jody Taggart

A New Hazard to Local Habitats

Now we can add emigre' worms as a problem to the environment. Earthworms are not alike the world over, and as they gain access to new habitats, they kill off local worm species and become a hazard to plants in their new environments. Some of them, native to the U.K., are ruining the ecosystems in parts of Minnesota's forests. The worms have destroyed the normal 10-15 inch undergrowth of forest soil by dragging leaves (whole) down their burrows. Because of this, in some parts of the forest the soil has become denser making it harder for trees to take root and making it easier for deer to get to and eat seedlings. Many wild flowers have also disappeared from the region.

In the U.K., Australian worms are killing off native ones, and in Romania, worms from other parts of Europe are overrunning native worms. Most of these worms travel via agricultural trade and some are sold as fishing bait. Some foreign worms are difficult to kill because of their underground lairs. There is an Asian worm (probably sold as fishing bait) taking over in the southeastern U.S. This worm is the size of a pencil and moves very fast. Local worms stand little chance against it.

Ecologists the world over are studying the situation, but so far there is no effective answer to this growing problem.

-Peggy Lowry

For more information see <http://www.nrri.umn.edu/worms/action/index.html>

Skunk Spray

Have you ever had a pet sprayed by a skunk? The power of the spray odor lies in thiols, sulfur containing compounds. These compounds must be dismantled at the molecular level. Tomato juice won't do it. The following formula was concocted by Paul Krebaum, a chemist, in the early 1990's. It works on pets—just be careful of their eyes.

1 quart hydrogen peroxide
¼ cup baking soda
2 teaspoons dish soap



Use at once. Apply while the peroxide is reacting to the baking soda.
From an article by Christine Ennulat in "Virginia Living" magazine.

-Peggy Lowry

Meeting Date Reminders

Board Meetings

June 6, 1:00 PM

July - To Be Determined

Association Meetings

June 13, 1:00PM

July 11, 1:00PM

Please submit your contribution to the newsletter

By **July 20** to Jody Taggart

jody.taggart@comcast.net 360-2680