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The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events

For York County Extension Volunteers

Oct 2009
Vol.10, Issue 10
Joe Ranalli
Editor

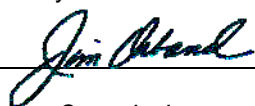
Future Calendar Events

November 2	Extension Agent District Conf. Meeting/Jim in Petersburg
November 3	Election Day – No Master Gardener Training
November 4 9a – 3p	Adv. Pruning Training, Jamestown 4-H Center. Lunch included, pruning team members only, register with Mary Boxer 898-5647
November 5	2009 PMG Trng (Container Gardens/Indoor Plants/Orchids and Herbs) @ Northside Christian Church – Rt 17
November 10	2009 PMG Trng (Fruits/Vegetable Gardens) @ Northside Christian Church – Rt 17
November 12	2009 PMG Trng (Risk Management, Safety in the Garden, Use and Care of Garden Hand Tools) @ Northside Christian Church – Rt 17
November 14 8a – 12p	YCMG @ 3 rd Annual Farmer's Market @ Riverwalk Landing, Contact Jean Thompson @ 890-0784 to volunteer assistance
November 17	2009 PMG Trng (Bulbs in the Landscape) Field trip to Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Gloucester, VA
Nov 18 12 – 1p	Gardening HearSay Radio Program, WHRV 89.5 FM, 1-800-940-2240
November 19	2009 PMG Trng (Graduation)
Nov 24 9:30-11:30a	Monthly Programming Meeting/Buffer Lunch @ St. Luke's Methodist Church MG Trainees are guests. Plant, seed, tool exchange
Nov 26 & 27	Office Closed – Happy Thanksgiving!
December 12 8a – 12p	YCMG @ 3 rd Annual Farmer's Market @ Riverwalk Landing, Contact Jean Thompson @ 890-0784 to volunteer assistance

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events, contact Joe Ranalli at 868-3429 or pd422vt@aol.com (put **Green Thumb in the subject line**), or Becky Wells at 890-4940. The deadline for *The Green Thumb* is ALWAYS the 15th of the month. E-Mail changes: New email addresses for Dottie Poniatowski: poni6@verizon.net; Lillian Downs: tdowns8@cox.net,

Mary Frances Baker: maryfrankbaker@cox.net

Help needed in the Learning Garden on Thursday mornings!



Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

Greetings from Jim

As fall approaches, it also marks the time for all to consider their volunteer efforts with Virginia Cooperative Extension as a Master Gardener, and decide if you want to renew this commitment. I will provide you with an annual Master Gardener Commitment form to consider, fill out, and return to the office. I appreciate your willingness to do this. As in the past, if you renew your Volunteer Commitment, you will be on the active volunteer list and coordinators may call you for program/project/phone needs. If you choose not to be active in 2010, you will be put on the inactive list. Of course, you can always keep up with Master Gardeners by accessing the Green Thumb online. Please begin to think of your service now so when the letter comes, you can fill it out and drop it back through the mail. Thank you for your participation in the program. I appreciate your continued support and look forward to working with you in the new year.

I am looking forward to our Master Gardener celebration on Sunday, October 11. I hope that each and every one of you will be able to attend this wonderful and fun event. It will be held in the Learning Garden.

As a part of the County's planned building maintenance, the Parks & Rec building will receive new carpet, scheduled to be put in on Oct 5 and 6. I need help packing all of my materials, files, cabinet materials into boxes so that they can move the furniture. Guess what? We are getting ready for the Landscape Extravaganza on Oct 3! It will be hectic! Please call Becky to see what can be done if you have time to help!

Thanks!
Jim

Unit Coordinator's Corner – Patsy Wells

Spring is still going strong in my yard. Not the flowers, mind you, it's the bugs! The chiggers are out in force (worst case scenario) and I was not prepared. So as I scratch and itch, I am planning my revenge with insecticidal clothing. I only hope the solution is not worse than the chiggers. Nature has a way of playing with your mind. With the loss of two large trees, (a leaner and a down on the grounder) my majorly dry shade garden has a new designation of pretty much sunSo I look with worry at my Leucothoe, my ferns, hellebores, and other shade plants and wonder when I will need to leap into action and grab a shovel to move them to more appropriate accommodations. ...Never a dull moment!

Italian Social Update

Ciao! Our wonderful Italian Social will be held on Sunday, October 11, at 1:00 in the Learning Garden. There will be an assortment of lasagnas, pasta dishes, salads, cream cakes, garlic bread, all favorite dishes of Master Gardeners. Anyone who was not at the last meeting can zing me an email with your choice of a dish to bring. We are doing well with main dishes, lasagna, and salads so if you have a special vegetable dish or dessert, that would balance out the offerings. There will be a tent so this will be a festive time, rain or shine. Bring a comfy lawn chair and prepare to practice your Italian. **Arrivederci!**
Patsy

Advance Pruning Training

In the hopes of pruning during warm weather, the York Extension office is organizing a "Train-the-Trainer" educational opportunity. It is designed to provide information to the attendee so that they may use the information to teach others, either fellow Master Gardeners or the general public. This event will take place at the Jamestown 4-H Center, Nov 4, 9a-3p. There will be a demonstration by a local professional arborist and also hands-on pruning of different trees and shrubs. Lunch will be provided for York County Master Gardeners. If you would like to attend, please contact Mary Boxer, pruning coordinator, at 898-5647. This is a great educational opportunity.

YCMG Embroidered Clothing Orders

September is here again and that means you can order YCMG embroidered clothing items. In case you did not pick up an order form at the September MG meeting, you can go to the York County Master Gardener website (<http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce/progareas/mastergardeners/mgs.htm>) to obtain a copy of the order form for items that can be ordered with the YCMG logo and personalized, if wanted. Deadline for this year's orders will be October 31, 2009. Evelyn Parker (parkerew@aol.com or 868-0496)

Environmental Education for the Kids!

On April 29th, three of our MGs hosted a field trip experience for the Seaford ES Fifth Graders on school property and two other adjacent properties. The "Oceans" theme was by teacher request, and after much research and testing, we selected 6 hands-on activities that students rotated through during their outdoor field trip experience. Other MGs helped with setup and with individual stations, and we also enlisted the help of a VDGIF wildlife biologist, a retired W&M professor, two retired YCSD teachers, a host of Master Naturalists, and Jim! It was a good deal of fun, and we're just crazy enough to do it again. By the time this goes to print, we'll know when we'll be reprising this field trip--this time for the Fifth Graders from Mt. Vernon ES. We will conduct the field trip at the same location as before on Monday, October 26 and the theme will be "Estuaries to Oceans." We could use loads of help from our fellow MGs for setup or to staff stations! The field trip runs about 4 hours, and activities are repeated anywhere from 4-8 times over the course of the field trip day for groups of 9-12 students. We'd love to have enough volunteers so that all of our field trip staff members can spend a quarter of the time visiting other stations and/or resting their voices. No experience is necessary--just enthusiasm! We'll contact you in advance to explain your assignment(s). If this sounds like fun to you, please contact Jody Turner, Barb Dunbar, or Teresa Bennett for details. Thanks! Jody Turner, (turnertribe@cox.net)

Help Needed In Locating Feral Hog Populations

There is a new thrust emerging from within USDA and several other federal agencies to take a fresh look at what we know about the distribution of feral (escaped and/or released, but now wild) hogs across the US. Currently, the data for Virginia is particularly scant, despite the fact that we know feral hogs, although limited in number, are present in the Commonwealth. We have fairly good information about populations known to exist in the southeastern part of the state, but we know very little about potential populations that may exist elsewhere. As you know, there are some potentially serious implications inherent in having free-roaming populations of hogs (transmissible disease issues for domestic and commercial operations, environmental or habitat destruction, etc.). Other states already are finding it difficult to manage these feral populations and the problems they are causing. Fortunately, because we believe we have so few of them so far, we may be in a favorable position to get ahead of that curve and not find ourselves in the position of some of these other states. If you would like to see a part of this effort, here is a link to the National Feral Swine Mapping System (<http://128.192.20.53/nfsms/>). It is obvious that Virginia currently appears to be devoid of feral hogs when, in fact, we know that some do exist. Master Gardeners, who know of general locations where feral hogs may exist, are encouraged to provide that information as starting points to help confirm the existing presence/absence database. (James A. Parkhurst, PhD, Virginia Tech, jparkhur@vt.edu)

Wildlife Habitat Council 21st Annual Symposium

When: November 9-10 2009

Where: Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, 700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

What: Evergreen: A Celebration of Conservation in a Changing World

For more information, go to: <http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?1Q,P1,153F12DD-4E6A-4CA0-8667-81A9FF380F9B>

Reminders

The St. Luke's Food Closet is always in need of donations – please bring them to our regular monthly meeting. And brown grocery bags are always needed (no plastic bags please). Doris Eagle, (djeagle1@cox.net)

Help!! Desperately Need

your **laundry** and **aerosol spray can caps**
for Horticultural Therapy's flower arranging class

Bug your spouse, neighbors, and friends!

Bring to October MG Meeting or Extension Office

The Seniors of York thank you.

We are really low on these, our seniors are going through record numbers of them - we'll be out of them by end of October. Carol-Marie Kiernan (drbellwood@verizon.net)

Fall Daffodil Bulb Fundraiser

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden is having a fall daffodil bulb fundraiser. You can log onto www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org for more information about the garden and the daffodil bulbs. (Clare Britcher, 229-7265)

October 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			Sept 30 9a-12p Meeting with York County MG trainees: 9a- Gary Parks 10a- Peggy Fink 11a- Mary Roberts	1 9a-12p Peninsula MG Training (Plant Propagation @ Colonial Wmsbg Greenhouse) 9a York County Budget Call, York Hall 9:30a Learning Garden	2 3p Landscape Ext. Set-up, St. Joan of Arc	3 9a-12p Fall Extravaganza @ St Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Yorktown
** Need Your Help Sept 28 through Oct 2 See Jim's Notes **						
4	5 9a-12p Meeting with York County MG trainees: 9a- Marilee Hawkins 11a- Mary Buckelew	6 9a-12p Peninsula MG Training (Plant Pathology) 9-11a Hort Ext Curriculum Planning Mtg	7 9a-12p Meeting with York County MG trainees: 9a- Theresa Jones 10a- Kathy Thomasson 11a- Louise Lynch	8 9a-12p Peninsula MG Training (Water Quality) 9:30a Learning Garden	9 9a-12p Meeting with York County MG trainees: 9a- Joe Bussey 10a- Vi Ross	10 9a-5p Painting the "Old Virginia Building", 4-H Center. To register: 253-4931
11 12-3p York County MG Picnic - Learning Garden 	12 Extension Office CLOSED 	13 9a-12p Peninsula MG Training (Trees) 9:30-11:30a Monthly Programming Meeting, St. Luke's Methodist Church	14 9a-12p Meeting with York County MG trainees: 9a- Melissa Carlson 10a- Susan Dexter	15 9a-12p Peninsula MG Training (Pruning @ New Quarter Park) 2-4p Jim Meeting w/Andrew Koenig/Pruning Preparation Green Thumb Deadline to Joe Ranalli	16 7pm Horticultural Society Meeting @ Women's Club, Newport News	17
18	19	20 9a-12p Peninsula MG Training (Principles of Landscape Design)	21 12-1pm Gardening HearSay Radio Program, WHRV 89.5 1-800-940-2240	22 9a-12p Peninsula MG Training (Plant Introduction @ HR Agric & Ext Res Ctr) 9:30a Learning Garden	23	24
25	26	27 9a-12p Peninsula MG Training (Integrated Pest Management) 10a-12p Horticultural Therapy @ York County Convalescence Center	28	29 9a-12p Peninsula MG Training (Principles of Organic Horticulture)	30	31 