



The Latest Dirt

Master Gardener Association of the Central Rappahannock Area
WE DIG, WE PLANT, WE LEARN, WE GROW!

Individual Highlights:

Highlights on Spotsylvania	2
Education opportunities	3
Stafford VCE	5
Porter Clinic	6

Upcoming Events

- **May General membership**
Local tour of three home gardens in Fredericksburg area. More information will come later.
- **June General membership**
Saturday, June 17th Cookout at home of Stan Zack.
- **July General membership**
July 19 at CRRL 7pm
A representative from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will speak.

Start Planning for MG College

MG College

The 19th Annual Master Gardener College will take place at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA from June 20 - 25, 2006. Now is the time plan and registrar the MG College. For more information on the registration and courses being offered at this year's college please go to <http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/mgcollege.htm>

MG College Scholarships

VMGA seeks to award scholarships to those deserving members who through their dedicated efforts of volunteerism and VCE goals have demonstrated exceptional leadership potential or significant contributions in their respective Units. Additional criteria are included on the application form. All VCE Master Gardeners planning to attend MG

College 2006 can be considered for these scholarships. The number of \$100.00 scholarships awarded is determined by the budgeted amount and donations to the Dianne Relf Educational Endowment Fund. (Please go to the following web page for more information on application form and further information <http://www.vmga.net/MGCollegeScholarship/2006MGCollegeScholarship.htm>

Presidents Message

We have two exciting events coming up in May and June, taking the places of our regular general meetings. On May 17, we are having a tour of the gardens of two of our own members: Phyllis Phillips and Susan Van de Putte. Phyllis and Susan live in the Seven Lakes area of Stafford, off of Mountain View Road. We are after all gardeners and what better way to get inspiration and new ideas than to see other people's gardens. I think we're in for a treat. I hope this will become an annual event and that other Master Gardeners will step forward and volunteer

their gardens each year.

On Saturday, June 17, Stan and Linda Zack will graciously open their home and beautiful property for our annual summer picnic. We will again have our silent auction with the theme of "Make it. Bake it. Sew it. Grow it." Watch for further details on these May and June events.

Another reminder: If you have not paid your 2006 dues, please do so. Our Association depends on its members. My feeling is, why become a Master Gardener if you don't want to support the local Master Gardener Association.

Watch for further details on "America's Anniversary Garden," celebrating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown.

I am also putting in a plug for "First Saturdays in the Garden." This program, coordinated by Ann Gorrell, is an excellent, educational way to spend a couple hours on the first Saturday of the month.

Now enjoy this beautiful weather and get out there and PLANT, PLANT, PLANT!!

Linda Dunn

Highlights on Spotsylvania Master Gardeners

Let other MG's know what's going in your county!

Please send listings of upcoming events or past programs that you would like to brag about to the newsletter editor at cori1012@yahoo.com

- Brian Wagner of Hyla Brook Farm www.hylabrookfarm.com presented the Virginia Native Plant Society Fredericksburg Area Chapter with MG education credit at Salem Church Library on April 25th. There are plant lists available for the asking from the Spotsy VCE office (540-507-7570) or Spotsy@vt.edu for Shade Garden Plan, Butterfly Garden Plan, Deer Resistant Plant List, New Plants for 2006 List and the slide presentation notes. Hyla Brook Farm provided all the native plant material used the FAC's workday at the Lake Anna restoration project.

- A must do sometime is a day trip on Mother's Day Weekend Garden Fair at the State of Virginia Arboretum at the Blandy Experimental Farm, US 50, Boyce, Virginia. This is also the location of the Native Plant Society headquarters. If you can't make the Spring Fair there is Arbor Fest in the Fall. There are self guided themed walks with labels everywhere, upscale vendors, food concessions and \$5.00 a car parking. Pets on leads are allowed.

- The May 23rd VNPSFAC lecture for education credit is Phil Sheridan presenting the Meadowview Biological Research Center work of

preservation and restoration of natural bog plant material.

- Pam Smith, Director, of Hope House, reports that she is extremely happy with the resident garden project lead by Joe and Susan Metz who have been a perfect community contact team for the residents. This project originated from Pam Smith's request of help from Mary Belman, Program Assistant, Smart Choices Nutrition Education Program (SCNEP) at Spotsy VCE.

- Mary Ann Reinhart, Art Rhodes, Gwyne Arnold and Kay Kimmell participated in plant Clinics at the Salem Church Library or the Route 3 Farmer's Market during April. 35% of the April community contacts were generated by Plant Clinics. Sitting in a convenient location and handing out attractive "First Saturdays in the Garden" brochures makes a useful difference in bringing Virginia Cooperative Extension programs to the community. - Kay Kimmell, MG at Spotsy VCE

- GACRA members participating in the April Lake Anna native plant restoration project were Anita Tuttle, Linda Chaney, Dee King, Sharon LaTour and Ann Gorrell. There maybe an opportunity later for additional planting. Stay

tuned for requests for help. - Ann Gorrell

- The participants at the Earth Day celebration at Alum Springs Park were treated to bonus benefits. Besides the always pleasant and informative tree identification walks of Guy Mussey and the wildflower walk in talk given by Hal Wiggins, the Earth Day participants were given free trees left over from the TCCSWCD tree sale. Marge Sismour and Donna Pienkowski helped make seedling pots from recycled newsprint which went to the Friends of the Rappahannock for "Rappahannock Gold" soil and on to the Sierra Club for sunflower or marigold seeds and a litter bag tote. - Donna Pienkowski, MG, living in Spotsy

Make it, Bake it, Sew it!

"Make it. Bake it. Sew it. Grow it!" is the theme once again of the silent auction which will take place on **Saturday**, June 17 at the home of Stan and Linda Zack. Stan and Linda are hosting our annual summer picnic.

Last year's auction raised several hundred dollars and we expect a better turnout this year. Some of the items donated last year included: plants, baked goods, original paintings, jewelry, craft items, flower pots and

other gardening items. We are also in need of tables to put items on at the auction.

Questions, please contact Laurie Clarkston or Linda Dunn.

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society (FAIS)

Those of you interested in irises may want to attend meetings of the Fredericksburg Area Iris Society. Contact Doug Chyz at dougchyz@adelphia.net or 540-659-6202 for a listing of their activities and programs. (Speakers will probably count as education hours).

Note from Doug Chyz- FAIS Program Coordinator: Most events, meetings at library, show, sale, open gardens, are open to public. We normally have a garden tour on the Sunday after our show where we van/car pool to different members iris gardens but this year we are going to open selected iris gardens to the public on 14 May and let the public visit during specified hours.

Education Opportunities

The Following is a list of upcoming education opportunities. Please check with your local extension agent to verify that they will count towards you education requirements.

• **First Saturday in the Garden Programs**

(All programs start at 9:30am-rain or shine).

May 6-Right

Plant/Right Place--Historic Kenmore

June 3-Weeds!--

Chatham Manor

July 1-The

Gardeners Year--Mary

Washington House

August 5-Wildlife

meadows and Gardens--

Gari Melchers Home and Studio-Belmont

September 2-
Chatham, Historic Gardens Revealed-
Chatham Manor

October 7-12th
Annual "In a Virginia Garden" Plant

Exchange and Tree Care Clinic--University of Mary Washington

November 4-Low
Maintenance Gardens and Gardening Books--

Central Rappahannock Library Headquarters Branch (Keynote speaker: Bonnie Appleton, author of "The Book of Lists")

• **2006 Spring/summer Horticultural Programs at Maymount**

Maymount offers a variety of interesting lectures and activities. Further information can be found at www.maymount.org or by calling 804-358-7166.

• **U.S. National Arboretum-**

The national Arboretum offers a variety of classes and demonstration and tours through out the year. For further information visit their web site at www.usna.usda.gov or call 202-245-4523 for more information.

Continued on page 4

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Deadline for articles for the next issue of *The Latest Dirt* is JUNE 15th

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Education Opportunities continued from page 3

- **July General Membership meeting**

July 19 - A representative from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will speak.

Time 7 PM.

Location: Main CRRL Library, Caroline Street, in downtown Fredericksburg.

- **Green Talks**

program The Green talks program is a monthly program held from April-October. Some are held at our office and others are held at locations in the county. The next one on Drip Irrigation will be held at the Smoot Memorial Library next Monday, the 24th, at 6 PM. Other topics will include roses, hydrangeas, water gardens, dogwood diseases, under-utilized trees for fall color, and caterpillars-the good, the bad and the ugly. For the complete listing see the website below. All programs are free but participants are asked to call and register at the VCE-King George County Office, 775-3062.

Programs are taught by Master Gardeners and Extension Agents. For a couple of the sites at private residents we'll have to provide directions to those who register. http://info.ag.vt.edu/vce/offices/webinfo/files/2006Green_Talks_Calendar.pdf

- **<http://advancedmastergardener.org/>** The purpose of this web site is to provide a central

repository for information and resources for Virginia Cooperative Extension Advanced Master Gardener Land Care Stewards. (not very current)

- **http://www.vmqa.net/Stewards/stewards_page.htm** This is a page for Virginia Cooperative Extension Advanced Master Gardeners and Stewards. We will answer questions here, and provide information about the Advanced Master Gardener Volunteer and Steward Programs of Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.

- **Virginia Master Gardner College** June 20-25, 2006 at VA Tech. Great source for lots of education hours! For more information please go to the following :<http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/mgcollege.htm>

- **Blandy Experimental Farm** is a 700-acre University of Virginia research facility situated in the northern Shenandoah Valley, about 10 miles east of Winchester and 60 miles west of Washington, D.C. Blandy Experimental Farm is also the home of the State Arboretum of Virginia, displaying more than 8,000 trees and woody shrubs. The collections include more than half the world's pine species, the Virginia

Native Plant Trail, the Boxwood Memorial Garden, a spectacular grove of more than 300 ginkgo trees, an herb garden featuring culinary, medicinal and ornamental herbs, and much more. For more information <http://www.virginia.edu/blandy/>

MGACRA Dues

2006 MGACRA dues can be paid to the treasurer:

John R. Davis
7012 Bloomsbury Ln.
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Johns email:
snjdavis@mac.com

From Stafford VCE

- We are in need of additional volunteers to help out at the Stafford VCE Office answering horticultural questions and performing other related jobs. Wednesday mornings are open as well as any afternoon. (Since I only work mornings, it would be best if afternoon volunteers come in a few times in the morning to learn the ropes). We also need some one who is interested in recording Master Gardener hours on a regular basis.

- At the last MGACRA Board Meeting we decided to order the **America's Anniversary Garden clothing items**....AT COST...so that we could proudly display and support the Jamestown Anniversary in 2007. We have to order 12 of any one item, and at least \$100 worth of merchandise (if we don't meet this criteria, we don't order). So if you would like to place an order for any of the items, please return the e-mail or see me at a board meeting or general meeting or First Saturday event.

The cost plus a small shipping charge is listed below:
 Hats: \$8 colors: black, white, forest green, khaki, navy
 Aprons: \$11 colors: black, white, hunter green, royal, navy
 T-Shirts: \$7 color: white with logo, Polo Shirts: \$12 color: white with logo thanks, Ann
 gorrell@cs.com Spotsy

- King George Smoot Memorial Library Plant Clinic**
 The plant clinic will be held on Saturdays from 9:00am to noon, from May 6th to Labor Day. Contact Regina Prunty at 540-775-3062 or rprunty@vt.edu - Gwen Pote

- Spotsylvania Farmer's Market Plant Clinic**

The plant clinic will start April 29th the at the Rt. 3 VDOT Commuter Car Park on Saturday mornings through September. Call the Spotsylvania VCE at **540-507-7570** (this is a new phone number for Spotsy VCE) or contact us at Spotsy@vt.edu and get your name on the Plant Clinic calendar. Kay Kimmell at Spotsy@vt.edu.

- Stafford Porter Library Plant Clinic**The plant clinic will be held Tuesday nights, May 23rd through August 29th, from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Volunteer for as few or as many Tues. nights as fits your schedule. Please contact Gwen Pote or Stan Zack at 540-752-0028 szack@infionline.net if you are interested.

- Our next Master Gardener meeting is a Garden tour on Wednesday, May 17th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, rain or shine; bring an umbrella if rain is in the forecast!

****Reminder: Don't forget to keep sending in your hours!** (MG Hours Report Form can be downloaded off the MGACRA website.)**

Horticultural/Gypsy Moth Technician
 Virginia Cooperative Extension--
 Stafford Office
 P.O. Box 339
 Stafford, VA 22555
 540/658-8000
gpote@vt.edu

Who to Contact

Executive Board of Directors

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 Past President: Betty Marcum, 898-8627

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 Fredericksburg:
 King George: Susan Horman, 775-4839
 Spotsylvania: Bertie Hamilton, 898-4398
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 Joady Chaplin, 373-0700
 First Saturdays in the Garden:
 Ann Gorrell 972-7613
 Speaker's Bureau: Laurie Clarkston, 582-2699
 Fund Raiser: Laurie Clarkston, 582-2699
 Shirt Chair: Judy Little, 786-8703
 Volunteer Office Coordinator:
 Gwen Pote, 658-8000;
 Alt.: Kay Kimmell, 786- 4576

Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents

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 Caroline: Mac Saphir, 804-742-5406
 King George: Regina Prunty, 775-3062
 Spotsylvania: John Howe, 582-7096

Historic Sites

Belmont: Terry Drew, 371-2015
 Chatham: Sara Broyles, 373-1683
 Kenmore/Ferry Farm:
 Alma Withers, 371-8069
 Mary Washington House:
 John and Shirley Davis, 898-5438
 James Monroe House:

540 area code unless indicated otherwise.

MGACRA



C/O VCE Stafford Office
P.O Box 339
Stafford, Va 22555

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.mgacra.com

Porter Library Plant Clinic

Volunteering at the Porter Library Plant Clinic provides an opportunity to do what we like doing best...talk about gardening and, at the same time answer questions and educate Stafford County residents in IPM practices.

The plant clinic will be held Tuesday nights, May 23rd through August 29th, from 6:30 to 8:30pm. We will be having an organizational meeting Tuesday, April 18th at 7:00 pm in the Stafford VCE conference room.

Volunteer for as few or as many Tues. nights as fits your schedule. Please contact Gwen Pote or Stan Zack at 540-752-0028 szack@infionline.net if you are interested.

Paying Job Opportunities

- Part Time Seasonal Customer Service Clerks: Share your love of plants and enthusiasm for gardening with customers in a small, Family-owned, Very friendly environment! Apply in person: Stafford Nursery 544 Truslow Rd 654-5410
- Full Time Landscape Designer: Share your creativity and designing skills, working with residential customers in the Stafford/Fredericksbutg Area. Our consultants visit customer homes for 1 hour consultations, recommend plants and design walkways, retaining walls and patios. Scaled drawings are not usually needed- we supply a conceptual sketch for most of our customers. Apply in person: Stafford Nursery 544 Truslow Rd 654-5410

Contact person for job openings: Kathy Rivers (Master Gardener Intern)
Customer Service Manager

About Our Organization...

The Latest Dirt – Master Gardener Association of the Central Rappahannock Area
The Latest Dirt is a bimonthly publication of the Master Gardener Association

of the Central Rappahannock Area (MGACRA), an organization dedicated to furthering horticultural education and volunteerism within the community. The

opinions expressed are those of the volunteers and are not necessarily those of the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

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