

IN AND OUT OF THE GARDEN

The May 2010 Monthly Journal
Rockbridge Area Master Gardeners' Association
www.ramga.org



"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments."
Janet Kilburn Phillips

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PRESIDENTIAL THOUGHTS

By Nancy Smith

**IT'S MAY!! TIME FOR THE PLANT
SALE!!! SATURDAY, MAY 8, 8:30-
12:00 at WADDELL SCHOOL.**

I am sure you all plan to be there since this is clearly one of the very best times in the Master Gardener year. Be sure to bring friends and family. We do request that you park away from the parking lot

and the street immediately above the sale area. We want to make sure the non-MG customers have places to park that are convenient to the plants.

Just to whet your appetite, let me give you an idea of what you can look forward to during a few short hours: Over 2,000 plants, which include 200 varieties of vegetables and flowering plants, a plant clinic, compost purchasable at dirt cheap prices, orchids, plants from the Native Plant Society, Boxerwood-directed knife-sharpening, Rockbridge Recycling, and the most adorable pet possibilities from SPCA.

Word has it that many of you have already volunteered your services to the success of the day. The help schedule is as follows: Set up begins at 6:15; plants arrive ready to be placed on tables for sale between 7:00-8:00. All volunteers should plan to be there by 8:00. If you would like to help in one of these or other ways (remember, your time is worth volunteer hours), please contact Ted Jenks at tedjenks@comcast.net.

Speaking of volunteer hours, we have added our newly minted MG interns to our project roles. The Team Leaders are delighted by the energy and enthusiasm the interns bring to their activities. In fact, the whole organization is delighted to have them. Thanks for being with us. I do want to mention that some Committee Chairs have voiced (rather

boldly actually) a need for more members for their committees. The Program Committee, Liz Maurer and Caren Nash, have done a wonderful job setting up programs through November 2010. But they have expressed the value of having a few more people on the committee to assist them with the audio-visual operation and other tasks involved in presenting the programs.

It would also be a huge help to have some more assistance such as, but not limited to, an on-call photographer, for Publicity, the Newsletter, the website and special events. Please contact Liz Maurer at esm306@yahoo.com and/or Caren Nash at nashva@comcast.net for Programs; Faith Vosburg for Publicity at faith@thepottingshed.biz; Sherry Smith for the Newsletter at RESMITH575@aol.com; Gerri Wenz for the website at Gerri Wenz windward97@aol.com. Your talent and involvement sure would enhance the efforts of RAMGA. Thanks so much!

See you at the PLANT SALE!!! Isn't it so great to be digging in the earth again?



Two of our new Master Gardeners will present their class topic at our monthly meeting on Thursday, May 27

Rockbridge Regional Library - 7:00 pm.
Hope to see you there!

**MASTER GARDENER GRADUATION
CLASS OF 2010
By Jim Davis**

On April eighth, sunny sky and warm temperatures yet again greeted graduation of a Master Gardener Class, that of 2010. Things started at 9:00 when K.B. led trainees-soon-to-be-interns and spouses on the now traditional tour of Boxerwood. Graduates of only a few years ago who have not returned would be impressed at the changes in Dr. Munger's arboretum. Colorful signs at every turn mark areas of imaginative programs for children's learning. Trainees themselves seemed impressed. Normally a spirited group, they were certainly evincing a degree of spirit higher than usual.

The tour ended in time for socializing, but at 11:00, the exercises began. Class Coordinator Dave Buckner welcomed all, recognizing Katherine Smith ("Our Godmother," he said), Jon Repair, Helen Riley and Jess Hastings, along with spouses and the many Master Gardeners present. He then introduced Tony Russell, Executive Director of Boxerwood, who gave special welcome. Finally, Dave called on RAMGA vice president Amy Scheuer for official words. Amy explained and regretted the absence of President Nancy Smith. Nancy's presence, though, was required elsewhere, with her daughter, recently the mother of twins. But she sent her commencement address for Amy to read. Nancy congratulated the Class and said, "We who have been MGs for a while will continue to celebrate your joining our ranks. We will celebrate your energy, your enthusiasm, your willingness to jump in and carry on the mission Master Gardeners have set for themselves in the Rockbridge County

area—education for children and adults, community development and creation of beauty in cooperation with the natural world.

Next, Carol Schoner, Records Coordinator, presented certificates, after which the graduates were applauded vigorously. No time was lost in getting down to business, however. Amy, in her capacity as supervisor of projects, gave interns their assignments. Then Ted Jenks called attention to sign-up sheets for duty at the plant sale on May 8th. Lunch, provided by MGs, followed, along with much more socializing, expressions of good will and exhilaration over the beautiful day and the flowering trees at Boxerwood.

Following is the list of project assignments that Amy posted.

Fairfield Elementary School: Karen Carlton, Molly Delappe, Cecile West-Settle

Natural Bridge Elementary School: Lea Braford, Pat Kovach, Cindy Miller, Nancy Trumps

Parry McCluer High School: John Dinkel, Leyna Hansley-Jackson

Hotline: Liz Gordon, Lynn Jones, Jane Stange
Horticulture Show, Rockbridge County Fair: Lynn Jones, Richard Marvin, Sally Nunneley, Jane Stange

Buena Vista Visitor Center: Sarah Nunneley
Campbell House: Jeanette Matchette, John Matchette

Maury River Senior Center: Ruth Huffman
Stonewall Jackson House: Bob Kovach, Richard Marvin

Plant Clinics: Karen Carlton, Jeanette Matchette, John Matchette, Cindy Miller

Rockbridge Community Festival: Pat Kovach, Nancy Trumps

Publicity/Photography: Molly Delappe, Ruth Huffman

❖❖❖❖ <u>May</u>	
1	Annual Festival of Gardening*
11	RAMGA Board Meeting - 2PM
12	Gardening in the Spring*
13	Tree & Shrub ID Series*
14-18	Spring Wildflower Symposium*
15	Sustainable Gardening Workshop*
19 or 22	The Backbone Perennials of Spring: Peonies and Irises*
20	Using the School Grounds As A Classroom: Completing the Garden Cycle*
26	Growing & Using Herbs*
27	2010 MG Interns Present!*
<u>June</u>	
5	Taking a Successful Plant Cutting*
5	Pruning Practices for Woody Ornamentals*
8	RAMGA Board Meeting - 2PM
10	Sustainable Landscape*
22-27	MG College*
26	Ancient Herbs!*
* See Educational Events Calendar in this issue	

DID YOU KNOW?

No Buds or Flowers?? Try some apple juice, and you'll soon be saying "Wow."

If your flowering shrubs won't flower, give'm a pedicure! Take a flat-backed spade and plunge it in the ground in a circle all the way around the bush at the tips of the farthest branches. Then pour a mixture of **1 cup of apple juice and 2 tbsp. of Epsom salts per 1 gallon of warm water** into the cuts in the soil around each bush. Voila! Your flowering bushes will soon burst into bloom with their best and brightest colors!

ROBUST ROSE TONIC

This fabulous formula will keep your roses happy, healthy and churning out blooms galore all summer long!

2 tbsp. of instant tea granules
1 tbsp of dry red wine
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp of fish emulsion
1 tsp of baking soda
1 tsp of iron (available at garden centers)
1 gallon of warm water

Mix these ingredients in a bucket and treat each rose bush to a quart of the mixture every 3 weeks during the growing season.

Calendar of Educational Events – May 2010

Date	Event/Credits	Content	Location/Contact
May 1 8:30am–1:00pm Cost: Free	Annual Festival of Gardening <i>Credits: ***</i>	The Hill City Master Gardeners present a day of educational events, plant sale, and children's activities.	Lynchburg, VA 31 Grove Street http://www.hcmga.com/calendar_events.asp
May 12 1:30–2:30pm Cost: Free	Gardening in the Spring <i>Credits: 1 hr</i>	Get your gardens ready so they will flourish all season long. Included in the lecture will be tips on watering, weed control, mulching, and fertilizing, plus demonstrations of the best tools to use for the job	Waynesboro, VA Andre Viette's http://www.inthegardenradio.com/v.php?pg=9
May 13 - June 17 Thursdays 9:00–11:00am Cost: \$65	Tree and Shrub Identification Series <i>Credits: ***</i>	Learn the methods needed to identify the trees and shrubs of the Fredericksburg area through hands-on learning.	Stafford, VA http://offices.ext.vt.edu/stafford/Tree_ID_Course_Brochure.pdf
May 14 – 18 Cost: \$120	Spring Wildflower Symposium <i>Credits: ***</i>	The focus is on native wildflowers and related topics such as ferns, native birds as well as their supporting ecosystems. Sessions of 1-2 hours include walks, lectures or workshops that are led by instructors who are experts in their field.	Wintergreen, VA http://www.vmga.net/Calendar/14May%20Wintergreen%20Spring%20Wildflower%20Symp.htm For further information contact: 434.325.8169
May 15 9:30–11:30am Cost: \$10 Reservations Required	Sustainable Gardening Workshop <i>Credits: 2 hrs</i>	Tour Monticello Vegetable Garden for sustainable gardening techs, natural pest controls, beneficial insects and a workshop demonstrating various bed prep methods.	Monticello, VA http://www.monticello.org/calendar/saturdays.html
May 19 or 22 1:30–2:30pm Cost: free	The Backbone Perennials of Spring: Peonies and Iris <i>Credits: 1 hr</i>	Learn how to select, plant, and maintain these wonderful plants plus other early bloomers for a stunning spring display.	Waynesboro, VA Andre Viette's http://www.inthegardenradio.com/v.php?pg=9
May 20 4:00–6:30pm Cost: \$20	Using the School Grounds as a Classroom: Completing the Garden Cycle <i>Credits: 2.5 hrs</i>	Put your garden to bed for summer while harvesting, composting, and planting a cover crop. Construct a worm composter and use decomposers to teach the	Richmond, VA Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden; http://www.lewisginter.org/events/event_detail.php?event_id=415

		scientific method.	
May 26 1:30–2:30pm Cost: free	Growing and Using Herbs: Seasonings for Your Health <i>Credits: 1 hr</i>	Learn how to have a successful kitchen garden by choosing the best herbs to grow and incorporating herbs into your recipes creating dishes with flavor and zip!	Waynesboro, VA Andre Viette's http://www.inthegardenradio.com/v.php?pg=9
May 27 7:00–8:00pm Cost: Free	2010 MG Interns Present! <i>Credits: 1 hr</i>	Come hear from a few of the new 2010 Master Gardener interns presenting their interesting MG projects.	Lexington, VA Piovano Room Rockbridge Regional Library
LOOKING AHEAD:			
June 5 9:00–11:00am Cost: \$30	Taking a Successful Plant Cutting <i>Credits: 2 hrs</i>	Garden Horticulturist Laura Sullivan discusses how to take cuttings, how to handle them to ensure rooting, and which plants are best for this technique.	Richmond, VA Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden: http://www.lewisginter.org/events/event_detail.php?event_id=486
June 5 9:30–11:30am Cost: \$10 Reservations required	Pruning Practices for Woody Ornamentals <i>Credits: 2 hrs</i>	Few horticultural practices are as misunderstood as pruning, particularly for shrubs. Learn how to make a proper pruning cut and enhance the natural growth habit.	Monticello http://www.monticello.org/calendar/saturdays.html
June 10 7:00– 9:00pm Cost: free	Sustainable Landscape <i>Credits: 2 hrs</i>	Bonnie Appleton presents: Sustainable Landscape and Bare Roots	Lexington, VA Location to be determined
June 22-27	Master Gardener College	More to Come!	
June 26 9:30–11:30 am Cost: \$10 Reservations required	Ancient Herbs <i>Credits: 2 hrs</i>	Study first-hand the many culinary, medicinal, and fragrant herbs used in American kitchen and dooryard gardens of the 17th and 18th centuries.	Monticello http://www.monticello.org/calendar/saturdays.html
Credits *** Contact Kip Brooks for credit questions: kipb@rockbridge.net or 462-6160			

**2009-2010
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IN AND OUT OF THE GARDEN

Editor-in-Chief Sherry Smith
 Managing Editor Jeanne Eichelberger

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The newsletter may also be viewed at www.ramga.org

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