

Gardening on the Shore

Winter, 2022

Message from the President

Happy 2022 to one and all. What a strange winter it has been! I can't believe I was able to work in the garden this past December. Then shoveling snow shortly afterward. It certainly reinforces that climate change is here.

The best part of winter is making plans for your garden while you stay warm inside. You may wonder with climate extremes "how does this affect my garden selections?" The suggestion from experts is you should not change what you plant, but keep in mind you may have to lend a helping hand to your plantings. Be mindful of tender plants in the fall in case an unexpected early chill is predicted and give your most sensitive plants a covering to keep them protected from sharp temperature changes and frost. If the weather is scorching hot, make sure you keep on top of watering and provide protection from the sun with a shade cloth for those plants that are suffering. Plant on!

As I become more aware of the importance of our native plants, I also know that those plants may not be readily available at our nurseries. A possible solution is to start a seed exchange. Our members can harvest seeds during the year and swap with each other in the fall or spring. More info will be coming in the next several months.

Bears may be hibernating but not your fellow Master Gardeners. A committee of devoted members have started planning for an in-person symposium to be held October 22nd. Save the date and lend a hand. There will be many opportunities, both small tasks and large, that you can help with. Let Jocelyn Grover know if you too want to help.

The 2022 training class started this January with fifteen future Master Gardeners enrolled. Kudos to the Education Committee for all their work to make this an in-person class as well as making backup plans should the situation call for remote learning.

Stay safe and hope to see you in the garden.

Joyce Falkinburg

IN THIS ISSUE

Feature Article

- Winter Sowing

Articles of Interest

- Pruning Deciduous Trees
- Garden Design Trends for 2022

Gardener Tips

- Winter 'TO DO' List
- Know your Natives
- Excerpt from MG Handbook: Root Pruning

What We've Been Up To

Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Events

Feature Article

Winter Sowing

by Jane McKinley, ESVMG EMG



Winter sowing is a technique for planting seeds outdoors in a protected environment in winter to give them a head start for the growing season. Winter sowing mimics the process of stratification which is a period of cool or freezing temperatures required by many seeds for germination. There are many benefits to winter sowing – plus it’s fun to see those little seedlings sprout under cold winter conditions nestled in their mini-greenhouse while you are enjoying a hot cup of your favorite beverage and watching out the window!

To get a head start on germinating your seeds for the spring, you have two options: indoor or outdoor sowing. You can also direct seed into the garden if the plants are cold tolerant, but you have a limited selection to choose from and the seeds won’t germinate until the ground warms up. If you are like me, I have tried indoor sowing with moderate success and lots of effort. Maybe if I had chosen to purchase a lighting system, maintained the ideal temperature, surrendered more space on my sunny windowsills, and coddled the seedlings more diligently, I would have had more success. With winter sowing, you don’t need to worry about any of these things!

As a source with personal experience, I tapped into the knowledge of my good friend, Melinda Blanchard. She had amazing success with her winter sowing “experiment” last year and is currently preparing for her second year of using this technique.

Benefits

Winter seed sowing is about as low cost as it gets. With the only expense being the soil – and you may not need to purchase that, either – this is the most cost-effective option for starting your spring and summer plants early. And you get the indirect benefit of saving money on your power bill, too.

Sowing in containers also helps protect the seeds from wildlife, and it avoids the problem of “damping off” which is a common risk to seedlings started indoors. This fungal disease kills seedlings at the soil surface – usually because of inadequate air circulation. With winter sowing, that’s not a problem.

Winter sowing is also a time-saver. Since seedlings will be growing under natural light, moisture, and temperature conditions, you just sow the seeds and forget them, allowing them to germinate under natural conditions and to harden off before they are transplanted into the garden.

How To

As Joe Lampl, host of the PBS program GardenSMART, points out, “this method is a sort of ‘tough love’ approach to seed starting, but it’s really just mimicking the natural process.”

There are a few general guidelines to follow for your winter sowing set-up. First, use the right container – one that is deep enough, allows water to move in and out, and lets sunlight through. The container will turn

into a mini greenhouse, allowing the seeds to experience the chill of winter in a controlled environment and providing protection until it’s time to transplant them into the garden or landscape beds. Great container options for winter sowing are items you already have around the house – recycled containers such as plastic milk jugs and liter soda bottles, takeout food containers (roisserie chicken containers are great), and other large plastic containers with deep bottoms and clear tops. Melinda uses empty milk and water containers.



If using plastic jugs or bottles, slice the container in half, allowing at least 5-6” in the bottom half. You can choose to fully cut off the top, squeezing it over the bottom to make a firm seal, or you can slice it

most of the way around, leaving a 1” wide hinge that will allow the lid to be opened and taped shut once the seeds are planted. Make several large holes in the bottom to allow water to flow out freely. Melinda has been successful with the hinge and tape approach and uses a drill with a large bit to make the holes in her container.

If using a container other than a jug or bottle which already has an opening, make sure you create holes for air vents in the top covering, keeping them small, to begin with, and widening them as the seedlings begin to grow and the weather warms in early spring.



Next, fill the container with planting medium. Melinda has had luck using a seed starting medium, but this is not really necessary since you're trying to replicate natural conditions outdoors. There is no requirement to use a medium that is

sterile or as light as that needed for indoor seed starting. Sources differ on whether or not to use garden soil, some saying that it is a little heavy and others saying that it is ok, especially if enhanced with about 20% vermicompost or composted humus. I plan to add some homemade compost and a bit of vermicompost into my starting mix. A soil depth of about 3-5" is a good rule of thumb to allow space for roots to grow.

Pre-moisten the soil and, just to make sure, add more water once it's in the container. This will be the last time you will need to water for a while since the top openings will allow in sufficient moisture and the container will keep it damp.

Once the container is prepared, you are ready to sow your seeds. Follow the directions on the seed packet to determine the depth to which the seeds should be planted. Space them out to allow for easy separation at transplanting time. One source recommends planting more seeds than you otherwise would (she planted two

seeds in a single hole) since the germination rate for winter sowing might be lower than if grown in ideal conditions. Melinda decided to plant more seeds in a single container than last year since the first year's seedlings were very easily separated from each other. Her experience confirmed the sources which gave assurance that the winter sown plants were less leggy than their indoor cousins, "shockingly" more tough, and more successfully transplanted. Once the seeds are in, seal and label your containers with permanent marker. You think you will remember which container has which seeds, but chances are good that you won't. So, once again, you are saving money since you probably have duct tape and a permanent marker on hand!

After planting, place the containers in a sunny or partially sunny spot out of the wind. And be patient since the seeds will need cold temperatures for several weeks after which time they will sprout on their own schedule – the one that Mother Nature has given them. When the temperature warms enough, the seeds will germinate and start to grow on their own. This is when they'll need more air circulation, a little bit of water, and less direct sun, so at this point they may not be totally hands-off. On warm days, open the top of the container to keep the air temperature around the seedlings from getting too warm.

By the time the soil in the planting beds has warmed, the seedlings will have developed two sets of true leaves and will be ready to transplant.

What to Sow

Not all seeds will work, but many will. Most annuals, many common perennials, most temperate trees and shrubs, and cool season vegetables do best. Look for seed varieties that need stratification or have traits such as self-sowing, direct-sowing, hardy annual, and cold-hardy. Seeds of tropical and tender plants will die in the cold, so avoid these.

Let's start with perennials. The first quality you should look for when determining if a perennial variety is a good winter sowing candidate is the hardiness zone. If it's naturally hardy in your zone (ours is 7b and 8a), odds are good that it's an option for winter sowing. Check the seed packet to see if there is any mention of stratification which means that the seeds of these plants require cold, damp conditions to trigger germination, either because they have hard shells that are softened by the freezing and thawing or because they are stimulated by the change in temperature to sprout. Good perennial options for winter sowing include bee balm, salvia, butterfly weed, milkweed, calendula, coreopsis, cosmos, foxgloves, St. John's Wort and hollyhocks. Melinda had good luck with Big Bluestem grass, amaranth, nicotiana, and hollyhock.

Edible options include those that are cold hardy and typically planted in late winter or early fall. These include beets, broccoli, cabbage, chard, carrots, kale, mache, radishes and spinach. Herbs like parsley, sage, oregano, dill, borage and anise hyssop are good candidates, too. Melinda had good luck with artichokes. Summer edible crops including tomatoes, squash, eggplant, and

Winter Sowing Native Seeds

We all know the benefit of growing natives, so why not add some to your winter sowing project? By perpetuating natives vs. cultivars (although they are fun, too!), you are supporting a process of natural adaptation and adding to the genetic diversity inherent in wild native plants.

As with all winter sown seeds, the repeated freeze-thaw of winter weather breaks down the hard seed coat and prepares the seeds to germinate. Some will sprout in late winter, others in spring and still others in summer. And there are seeds that won't sprout that first year but will take one or more years to grow. Summer and fall meadow plants tend to sprout the first spring and are best for beginners, while other plants can be trickier.

While still offering the same ease of sowing as with most winter sown seeds, according to the [Wild Seed Project](#), native seeds are prepared a little differently. With natives, their seeds should be planted in propagation trays, protected from animals with a lid or hardware cloth and top-coated with sand (see pic).

Although it's illegal to gather seeds in wild spaces, you can still collect native seeds from a friend's meadow or your own. There are not many sources in this region to purchase native seeds, however, my research landed on [Southern Exposure Seed Exchange](#) which my experience has shown it to be good source. You can also buy seeds from the Wild Seed Project.



For more information go to: Wild Seed Project, "[How to Grow Natives from Seed](#)"

peppers all need warmer temperatures. For those types of plants, sources recommend indoor seed starting as your best option to get a jump start on the season.



For annuals, look for seed varieties that are described as hardy annuals. Good annual options are alyssum, snapdragon, delphinium, money plant, and oriental poppy. Melinda had good luck with amaranth, strawflower, globe amaranth, and – her best performer - cardinal climber, *Ipomoea sloteri*, a hybrid of cypress vine.

But don't allow yourself to be restricted by the plants listed above. Consider taking a lesson from Melinda who says, "take a shot," trying a variety of seeds whether you have high hopes of their germination or not.

Despite recommendations against it, Melinda tried winter sowing tomato seeds and ending up with 72 robust plants that transplanted easily into the garden! After all, it costs you practically nothing and can yield exciting surprises.

Sources:

Joe Gardener Podcast #130 - [Winter Sowing: A Simple Way to Successfully Start Seeds Outdoors](#)

The Spruce, ["Winter Sowing for a Head Start on Spring Gardening"](#)

[Winter Sowing 2020 – Easy & Cheap Way to Start Seeds](#) (YouTube video)

Fairfax County Master Gardeners, ["Sow Your Seeds Outdoors – in Winter!"](#)

[Winter Sowers](#), Facebook

Articles of Interest

Now is the Time to Prune Your Deciduous Trees

by Jane McKinley, ESVMG EMG



No one wants to get outside in the cold winter weather, but there is one activity that is best done in the winter months. That activity is pruning deciduous trees which is done for health, safety, and esthetics.

Most deciduous trees will do well with winter pruning which can be done November – March. According to the Virginia Cooperative Extension [Pruning Calendar](#) this is the best time to prune crepe myrtle, alder, and birch. Flowering trees such as dogwood, crabapple, and plum can be pruned in the winter, but be careful not to take off the buds that you want to save for summer blooms (crepe myrtles

bloom on new wood, so no caution is necessary).

The goal of pruning is to encourage trees to develop a strong structure and to reduce the likelihood of damage during severe weather. As we all know, winds on the Eastern Shore can be brutal! Pruning for safety involves removing dead or diseased branches that could fall, causing injury or property damage, and trimming branches that interfere with sight lines on streets or driveways and that grow into utility lines (although planting the proper tree will avoid this problem). Pruning for health involves removing diseased or insect-infested wood, thinning the crown to increase airflow and reduce some pest problems, and removing crossing and rubbing branches. Pruning for aesthetics involves enhancing the natural form and character of trees or stimulating flower production. Winter, when the tree is in a dormant state and when the lack of leaves makes the areas in need of pruning easily identified, is the time to “corrective prune” deciduous trees.

When pruning damaged or diseased wood, make cuts deep enough to go well below the affected area. Even in the winter when diseases cannot be easily spread, be sure to disinfect tools between each cut with Lysol, Listerine, or rubbing alcohol. Don’t use household bleach which can corrode metal tools.

Look for branches that are rubbing and remove the one that is growing inward or across a more desirable branch. The earlier these rogue branches are removed, the easier it will be on the tree. Water sprouts which are random growth that occurs along branches should also be removed. And, even though suckers which are those vigorous shoots coming up from the base can be removed at any time, as long as you have the pruners out, go ahead and remove them, too.



This coral bark maple is in dire need of pruning. Note how “busy” it is with tiny sprouting branches and rubbing branches.



After pruning, the tree is opened up for better health, air circulation and aesthetic appeal.

Most trees produce a corky ridge at the juncture or notch of a branch; this is called the Branch Bark Ridge. At the base of a limb is a ring of growth; this is called the Branch Collar. The pruning cut should be made just outside a line connecting these two points. If a tree does not produce the characteristic branch collar or ring of bark, make the cut so that the cut angle is at a right angle to the branch and is at the same angle as the branch is to the trunk. The diagram gives you a visual picture of how these cuts are made.

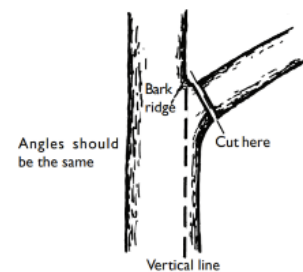


Diagram from Arizona Extension

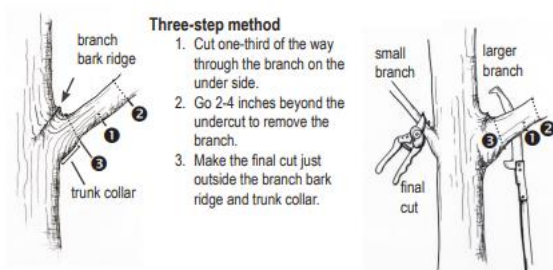


Diagram from USDA Forest Service's "Tree Owner's Manual"

If cutting off a limb greater than 1", remove the long, heavy end first, then make your pruning cut as discussed above. Follow the Three-step method as illustrated.

When trimming the end of a small branch, do so close to the leafy new growth which will hide the stump once the new growth fills in. Try to remove no more than 25% of the live branches. It is not necessary to coat pruning cuts except if the tree is

susceptible to canker or systemic disease, which is not a risk for crepe myrtles.

Young trees benefit from corrective pruning by ensuring healthy growth, eliminating problems before they occur, and obtaining an attractive shape. For this pruning technique, select larger branches that you want to encourage and prune around them. Make sure that the desirable branches have a 45° – 60° angle from the trunk (narrow angles introduce a risk for future weakness). These "scaffold" branches should also be evenly spaced (at least 10"-12" apart) and arranged radially around the trunk to promote well-balanced growth.

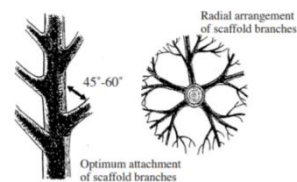
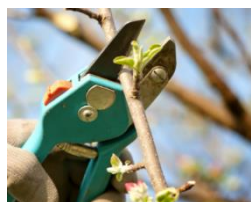


Diagram from Virginia Tech Extension Service



For additional information on pruning deciduous trees and a pruning calendar, go to the [Virginia Tech Publications](#) website or refer to the USDA Forest Service "[Tree Owner's Manual](#)." For hands-on assistance in pruning your tree, contact the Cape Charles Tree Advisory Board at cctab02@gmail.com. And, if you would like to help out with the Cape Charles trees, consider volunteering for the "Begone You Suckers" Clean Up event (see Upcoming Events for more information).



Garden Design Trends for 2022

by Jane McKinley, EMG

Include Tropicals

No need to travel to the tropics when you can bring a little bit of tropics to you. This can be done by introducing hardy sub-tropical plants such as banana trees, hardy hibiscus, cannas, dwarf palmetto and elephant ears into your landscape. This picture of a banana tree was taken in Cape Charles last summer.



Since these plants need some special handling, here are a few pieces of advice to follow. Plant them in a spot sheltered from wind and near buildings, walls or foundations where they will receive ambient heat in colder months. Get them in the ground as early in the season as possible to allow time for them to get established before cold weather hits. Plant tubers, bulbs and rhizomes more deeply than recommended. Add a thick layer of mulch in late fall.

Bring the Indoors Out

Although we are all familiar with the term “garden rooms,” this has now become a lasting trend. With temperatures getting ever warmer and the desire to spend more time outside in “clean” air, the time has never been better to bring the indoors out. When planning your design be sure to include cozy conversation areas with comfortable weatherproof seating, a canopy or other structure to create shade, even surfaces to avoid tripping and chair legs sinking, screening for privacy, container plants, and ambient outdoor lighting. Also don’t forget the front porch where we can reconnect with our neighbors, listen to the sounds of nature, and surround ourselves with annuals and tropicals perfect for the season.

Go Bold



In keeping with the trendy interior “[Grandmillennial](#)” style which uses big doses of color and texture, take a lesson from their playbook! Add plants with big leaves, lots of color contrast, and a variety of textures. Dark foliage is becoming popular with its impressive contrast

against bright flowers and vibrant silver or chartreuse leaves. Good candidates for dark foliage include heucheras, smoke bush and sweet potato vine.

Garden for Climate Change

The biggest risk to our area from climate change is flooding and excessive rain. Trends are to establish rain gardens (with water-loving plants such as swamp milkweed, turtlehead, eastern rose-mallow, northern blue-flag, Joe-pye weed, marsh marigold, and cardinal flower), creating a swale to distribute excess water across an area, reducing impermeable surfaces to allow more water to percolate into the ground, and choosing plants for erosion control.



Gardening for Wildlife

We Master Gardeners have embraced the concept of pollinator gardens and native plants for a long time. The rest of the world is now beginning to buy into the value of incorporating these principles in their landscapes. Some of the trends include reducing lawn, including water features, and planting a diverse collection of plants. This planting scheme also supports the growing trend of backyard birding.

Plant a Cutting Garden

Fresh flower sales increased 10% in 2021. But with the price of most things going up, fresh flowers are also becoming more expensive. So, why not plant a cutting garden with zinnias, dahlias, black-eyed Susans and other sun loving plants to enjoy not only outside but to brighten your indoor space. These flowers are also bee and butterfly magnets. Just remember to keep cutting to encourage more blooms.



Gardeners' Tips

WINTER 'TO DO' LIST

As you have read through this issue of "Gardening on the Shore" you know that one task best done during the winter months is pruning deciduous trees. So what else can the active gardener do when the weather is too cold to comfortably be outside? Well, for one, we are lucky to live in an area with occasional mild days, and it is rare for the ground to freeze. One of my favorite things to do in the winter is to look at the "bones" of my garden and plan for changes. Another is to study the seed catalogs and purchase varieties that I can winter sow and have on hand for the spring plantings. Here are some other ideas for winter gardening activities.

Organize the shed or garage. These places have a unique ability to quickly gather clutter and get out of hand. Now is the time to cull the junk; clean, sharpen and oil your tools; and sweep out the dirt and cobwebs that have accumulated over the course of the summer and fall. Make piles of items to keep, donate or sell, and throw away. Construct shelving and hooks to help with your organization.

Keep up the watering. Keep an eye on containers and recent plantings to make sure they are getting the amount of water they need. Even though these plants aren't actively growing, you don't want their roots to become desiccated. Newly planted trees and shrubs are putting down critical roots as they get established in preparation for the hot summer months.

Maintain wildlife habitat. Keep an eye on bird baths to maintain fresh and unfrozen water. If you have a pond heater, keep an eye out on this, too, to make sure it isn't icing up. If ice begins to form on the top of the water, make a hole or pour hot water over an area to break it up so that oxygen can continue to flow. Keep bird feeders full and leave some plants with berries on them. Of course, in the fall we acknowledged that cleaning out the garden beds is best left to the late winter so that wildlife will have places for protection from the winter cold. And creating small piles of logs or rocks with fallen leaves provide shelter for overwintering insects like mason bees.

Prepare new garden beds. Since you can now see the "bones" of the garden, winter is the time to envision where new garden beds will be created. And, of course, the first step is to take a soil sample and apply recommended amendments. You can also lay down yard debris such as raked leaves and depleted annual foliage (you saved them from the fall, didn't you?) which will decompose over the winter months, adding humus to the soil. Build a cold frame to extend your growing season.

Turn off water sources. If you have one, be sure to turn off your irrigation system and/or reset the timer. Flush out the system and let it drain to reduce the chance of freezing and damaging the hose or drip system. Also, consider turning off the water to your outdoor faucets and draining the hoses.

Keep composting. Although composting slows down in winter, it doesn't stop. This means that you should continue to feed it with kitchen scraps. The winter heap will be finished and ready to go into the garden by next fall, if not sooner. Also, if you have a worm farm, be sure to keep an eye on it so that it doesn't freeze (this happened to me one year, and it *wasn't pretty!*).

EXCERPT FROM MASTER GARDENER HANDBOOK

In keeping with the pruning theme of the feature article, this excerpt talks about another type of pruning: root pruning. Unlike with deciduous trees, this technique is not one that should be done in the winter (unless as mentioned in the last paragraph). It should be done well before transplanting trees or shrubs or to force a tree, shrub, or vine into bloom.

A tree growing in the woods or landscape for several years develops a wide-spreading root system. The area in a 3-foot radius of the trunk of the tree more than five to ten years old contains very few of the small feeding roots essential to gathering nourishment for the tree. As a consequence, if the tree were to be dug and moved, as much as 90-95% of the necessary feeding roots would be cut off in the balling operation. This is the reason many nurseries root-prune trees and shrubs: to force them to grow a large number of small feeding roots near the base of the plant which are moved in the balling operation and aid in establishment after transplanting.

To make it possible to safely dig and move small trees or shrubs, such trees should be root-pruned a year or so before they are moved. In the spring, sever half the roots by forcing a sharp spade into the soil around the plant alternately leaving a shovel width of untouched soil between cuts. The circle of cuts should be smaller than the size of the ball that will eventually be dug. In the fall, sever the other half of the roots, thus cutting all the roots that are at a depth of a foot or less. The tree can

then be moved the following spring. Recent research indicates that most of the new roots grow from the cut root end. Therefore, a root ball 4 to 6 inches larger than the root-pruned area must be dug to get the newly developed roots.

Root pruning is also used to force a vigorously growing fruit tree or wisteria vine into bloom. Using a spade to cut the roots early in the spring, as explained above, is all that is sometimes necessary to force a tree, shrub, or vine into bloom the following year. This takes advantage of a plant's natural reaction to stress or wounding: propagation beginning with flowering.

Occasionally arborists will prune roots of large trees that are facing damage from construction or utility line installation. This practice has two benefits. First, it allows roots to be severed at a time of year when it will be less harmful to plant health (in dormant season). Second it ensures a cleaner cut than will be made by heavy excavating equipment such as backhoes. Root pruning for this purpose should be done in advance of any construction and just within the area to be disturbed.

Master Gardener Handbook
Chapter 11, Pruning Techniques

KNOW YOUR NATIVES

As interest in native plants and how to incorporate them into one's landscape grows, with each issue, this series introduces the reader to a select variety of native plant. The plant featured will be at its most attractive during the current season. For the winter, Witch Hazel takes center stage with its yellow petals contrasting against its bare branches.

Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*



A native shrub or small tree reaching between 15' – 30' high, Witch Hazel can be multi-trunked with spreading branches that form an irregular, open crown. Its fragrant, yellow spider-like blooms appear anywhere from late fall to late winter and brighten the dreary winter landscape. Its deciduous leaves create a nice fall display when they turn brilliant gold.

This plant tolerates full sun to partial shade, however, best flowering occurs in a sunny location. It does not like drought, but it does tolerate heavy clay soil, erosion, and deer. Songbirds eat the small fruit capsules which appear at the same time as the flowers. It also attracts moths, pollinators, and small mammals. Specimens can be pruned into small trees and used as a patio planting.

What We've Been Up To

ESVMG gets a little slower during the late fall and winter months, but a few fun activities have been going on. And we look forward to things picking up in the spring.



Christmas Party & Annual Meeting

Held on Dec. 7 at the Island House restaurant in Wachapreague, the Christmas party and annual meeting was a fun and delicious event for all. Volunteer hours for 2021 totaled 3,900, and special thanks were extended to members who went "above and beyond" in 2021.

A special thank you goes to these individuals who went above and beyond in 2021:

*Christmas Party & Annual Meeting
Continued*

- **Jen Alley** for all your help in the many gardens where you volunteer
- **Ray Margret** for your work on the songbird garden
- **Bob Schendock** for your work on the Chincoteague Museum Garden
- **John McCormick** for your leadership on the Northampton County Corrections Garden
- **Christine Williams** for your work on the education committee through the Covid Pandemic

The party/meeting included donations made to Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the traditional Thieves Gift Exchange. Thanks to the Hospitality Committee who coordinated the event. Congratulations were extended to the MG Interns who are now fully certified Extension Master Gardeners.

2022 Master Gardener Classes Underway

The new class of MG Interns began on January 12 with 15 participants. Enthusiasm is high and the group is anxious to learn more about gardening in their own space and how they can volunteer their time and energies to bring more

horticultural knowledge to the Eastern Shore. This year's schedule will include multiple field trips to the ESVMG sponsored gardens and to other points of gardening interest in our area as well as a class project. We are lucky to have in-house expertise for many of the topics being covered.

Good news for our membership: you can now attend classes and get continuing education hours! If you plan to do so, please let Christine Williams know so that she will be able to notify you of any last-minute changes to the schedule.

New ESVMG Supported Garden

This past fall, John McCormick, through contact with other Master Gardeners Lynn Wadja, Phil Goetkin, and Jocelyn Grover, became aware of a need to help inmates at the Northampton County Correctional Center, both male and female, who were being readied for their move back into the community. It was suggested that these people would find satisfaction and gain useful skills in building and tending a vegetable garden. Jumping at the opportunity, John worked with prison officials and inmates to design and build the infrastructure for numerous planting gardens. We look forward to seeing how this project will develop. Look for an update in the Spring newsletter.



Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade. –**Rudyard Kipling, 'The Glory of the Garden' (1911)**

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We are all aware of the need for volunteers at the numerous ESVMG-supported gardens across the Shore, and many of us help out with these projects. There are also a couple of other opportunities coming up this year that you may consider for fun and to earn volunteer hours.

“Begone, You Suckers” Tree Pruning Project

This event, to be held in Cape Charles during the morning of March 26, is sponsored by the Cape Charles Tree Advisory Board (TAB). It will take place along Rt. 184, Stone Road, to remove the prolific suckers growing at the base of the crepe myrtle trees leading into town. If you would like to participate and earn up to 3 hours of volunteer credit, please notify the TAB at cctab02@gmail.com.

Fall 2022 ESVMG Garden Symposium

Plans are heating up for the upcoming ESVMG Garden Symposium, “Garden with a Purpose,” to be held on October 22 at The Chincoteague Center, 6155 Community Dr, in Chincoteague. The event will include three to four notable speakers, the possibility of a hands-on workshop, and a silent auction/raffle. Volunteer help is needed now to help finalize the plans and get them “off the ground.” Contact Jocelyn Grover to let her know that you want to get involved.

WRITERS NEEDED

You may have noticed that the three articles in this season’s newsletter were authored by me, Jane McKinley. Although I do enjoy the research and writing that goes into these articles, I sure would appreciate some relief!

Time spent can be counted as volunteer hours, and what a nice way to get credit during a time of bad weather, convalescence, or just plain curiosity! You can pick the topic and, of course, work on it as your schedule allows.

Please let me know if you would like to help out with this fun and educational activity.

UPCOMING 2021 EVENTS

Feb 1, 9:30 – 11:00 General Membership Meeting, AREC (masks required)
March 26, 9:00-noon Cape Charles Tree Pruning Project
April 30, time TBD Arbor Day Celebration (with native plant theme)
June 5, time TBD ESVMG Cape Charles Garden Tour
Oct 22, time TBD ESVMG Garden Symposium

2021-22 ESVMG BOARD MEMBERS

President – Joyce Falkinburg
Past President – Phil Goetkin
Vice-President – Jocelyn Grover
Secretary – Nancy Arnold
Treasurer – Cindy Ray
Member at Large (Accomack) – Pauline Milbourne
Member at Large (Northampton) – Jennifer Alley

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Membership Committee Chair – Brenda Fitzsimmons
Education Committee Chair – Christine Williams
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