



WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

Newsletter

Winter 2012

Williamsburg Botanical Garden Mission Statement

To enhance the life of residents and visitors by promoting beautiful gardens for the enjoyment of plants and the environment through year-round educational and recreational programs.

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New Interpretive Center in Freedom Park



Photo Caption - Pictured from L to R: Lafayette Jones, JCC Historical Commission; Ed Truslow, Sons of the American Revolution, Williamsburg Chapter; Alain Outlaw, Archeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc.; Kirk Moore, Eastern Virginia Mountain Bike Association; Robert Middaugh, JCC Administrator; Susan Powell, Virginia Master Naturalist; Jim Icenhour, Board of Supervisors; Angela Cingale, Williamsburg Botanical Garden; and Craig Metcalfe, JCC Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

The Garden Looks Wonderful!

—thanks to ongoing efforts by dedicated volunteers. On a blustery January morning in January, temperatures in the low 40's and a biting wind, six workers were spreading leaf mulch and weeding the garden. Joanne and John Chapman are responsible for arranging the recycled leaves (courtesy Valley Crest) and hardwood mulch (from James City County) which has been placed on all the pathways. Small logs from downed wood on Ralph Will's property now line the walkways in the Native Woodlands area, with the labor supplied by Ralph and his son Travis.

Donna Ware has supervised the re-making of the two wetland areas to better represent different habitats, and has encouraged Ralph and Travis to remove blackberry vines, lespedeza and broomsedge from the meadow. And Dorothy Whitfield, whose age is considerably south of all the other workers in the Garden, never misses an opportunity to pull emerging spring weeds, under Donna's direction.

Ginny Carey and Nancy Gore were at the Garden also, happily spreading leaf mulch, working toward their certification as Master Naturalists.

The Garden truly would not be what it is today, without the consistent work of this small group of volunteers!



Chairman's Message

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! The holidays are behind us and we are well on our way towards planning and preparing for another interesting and exciting year at Williamsburg Botanical Garden.



The new Interpretive Center has been dedicated in Freedom Park and it opens the door for wonderful new opportunities. In addition to expanded parking space, meeting rooms, restroom and picnic facilities, a kiosk offers extensive information about all the park has to offer visitors. The center is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

A variety of monthly educational programs have been planned. We hope you will find topics of interest to you and your family. See the calendar in this publication for details. The Third Annual Spring Garden Party is set for May and Spring and Fall Plant Sales will add wonderful fundraising events to our calendar. Monthly work days will continue in the garden throughout the year with special interest groups lending support to help with garden chores and other activities.

Plans to engage in a strategic planning project are underway: "Preparing the Ground for a Sustainable Future". Information will follow in future newsletters.

It promises to be another busy and productive year at the Garden. Come visit often and lend your support in a variety of ways that being pleasure to you and your family. Check out our website often for program information, work days and other special events and information: www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org.

We look forward to seeing you in the garden!

Warm regards, Karen Jamison



With extremely generous donations from Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Al Davidoff is installing a lot of bulbs, of great variety, in the space vacated by the downed Red Maple tree, resulting from Hurricane Irene. We will see the results of his "Landscaping with Bulbs" project in the spring and early summer—thanks, Al and Brent!



Volunteer Profile Geoff Suter



Communication is a key component for every organization when striving for successful relationships with constituents. There are many types of communication and print media is one of the most common forms that can have a significant impact on the audience.

Williamsburg Botanical Garden is fortunate to have a communications specialist on our team. We salute Geoff Suter as an outstanding volunteer who has served on the Board of Directors since 2007. Geoff and his staff at Suter Printing are to be commended for the variety and quality of printing services they offer for our many communication needs. WBG quarterly newsletters, program materials, the annual appeal and special event materials are always first class communications.

Geoff serves the organization in other ways as well. He is always there when called upon for special help at the garden on or off site during special times of need. Thank you, Geoff for all you do for WBG!



PROGRAMS



The third Thursday in November saw our first program presentation in the new Interpretation Center in Freedom Park. Expecting about 60 participants, the final count was 97—the largest group ever at a WBG program! Below is an excerpt from a note from Clyde Marsteller, “the Zoo Keeper.”

“The Zoo and I were honored to be the first presenters at the new Interpretive Center at Freedom Park. We were invited by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden and our hostess was Angela Cingale. I had hoped some of our Chapter would come and help as our Zoo Cru. Much to my delight Shirley Devan, Linda Miller, Nancy Ward, Barbara Dunbar, and Patty Maloney came to my aid. At the end of the morning Angela also became a Zoo Cru member.

I started the presentation with the story of the Perfect Animal—our own Living Fossil (not me, the cockroach) and Pangea when a group of thirty children from an underserved community escorted by students from the College of William and Mary arrived. Suddenly it was Standing Room Only! The Zoo Cru did an outstanding job handling the animals allowing all an opportunity to see, hear, and in some instances touch the critters.

The Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches and their American cousins started off the show off followed by the Roly Polies, Giant Millipedes (1,200 legs and counting), Giant Striped Wood Slugs and their cousins Giant Wood Snails, large Night Crawlers, and the Fabulous Talking Betsy Beetles.

The presentation started and ended with Billy the Big Mouth Bass entertaining the audience with his renditions of: Take Me to the River and Don't Worry, Be Happy. Billy Big Mouth, the Dreaded RoboWasp and the Fabulous Talking Betsy Beetles were show stoppers.

It appeared the Zoo was well received and provided a learning experience about the animals sharing our natural world. The idea of Stewardship of our world and its Creatures is the keystone of ‘A Zoo In My Shopping Bags.’” — From Clyde Marsteller, “The Zoo Keeper”



Master Gardener Tour Guides for the Garden

In 2010 a joint MG/WBG project to provide tours of the Botanical Garden was created. Patsy McGrady and Mitzi Balma, MG Class of 2010, signed onto the project and now co-chair the effort. Carolyn Will, Donna Ware, and Angela Cingale introduced Patsy and Mitzi to the garden -- explaining the history, goals and objectives of the WBG and discussing the structure and content of the various sections of the WBG.

Eight additional Master Gardeners from the Class of 2011 joined the project. The group is developing information on each of the garden sections which could support self-guided tours of the Garden. Between 2010 and 2011 over 150 visitors, both adults and children, have participated in the tours.



Focusing on “The WBG in Spring, two tours are currently scheduled, - March 31 at 1:00 and 2:30 pm. Since tours are limited to 25, registration is necessary, on the WBG website. Tours are generally provided on a per request basis. Requests for tours can be directed to Patsy McGrady, 757-258-1181, patsymcgrady@cox.net.

Seated, L-R: Jordan Westenhaver, Mitzi Balma
First Row: Cathy Hill, Patsy McGrady, Iris Grant
Second Row: Vincent Rasper, Gary Streb, Ken Caro, Nancy Bayne (Not shown: Valerie Hillyer and Donna Thibeault)



WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

P.O. Box 1577
Williamsburg, VA 23187
Address Service Requested



WBG Memberships Due January 1, 2012

A new board policy is in place, setting the membership renewal date at the start of each new calendar year. Included in this newsletter is a membership/donation form. If you have questions, please contact: Dave Banks, Treasurer at: dfbanks@earthlink.net or Karen Jamison, Chairman at: karenajamison@cox.net.

JOIN WBG!

Send us a check, or join online at our website.

Annual memberships:

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Student | \$ 10 |
| Individual | \$ 25 |
| Family | \$ 45 |
| Civic | \$150 |
| Corporate | \$250 |
| Lifetime | \$2,000 |

CALENDAR

The Friday Morning Work Crew welcomes everyone! Help is always needed to spread mulch, move plants, pull/dig out winter weeds, cut ornamental grasses, and general garden maintenance. For more information, visit the website, or call 757 880 1893.

Mark your calendars: "Destination Recreation Expo Program," Feb 26, at the Rec Center. WBG will have a table and display.

Williamsburg Botanical Garden 2012 Program Schedule

All programs are free and open to the public, from 10:00–11:30 a.m. Check the website for the complete program February—November.

February 18: "The Right Cut" Pruning Class with the James City County-Williamsburg Master Gardeners Tree Stewards – The basics of pruning your trees and shrubs and proper pruning tools. For adults at the Interpretative Center.

March 17: "Planting Heirloom vegetables in the Therapy Garden" with Barb Dunbar, York County MG and certified Master Naturalist. Bring home seeds for your home garden.