

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly all (96%) of the terrestrial bird species in North America rely on insects to feed their young! Insects are very nutritious, providing birds with more protein than beef, and fat for the energy required to nurture their young and fly migratory routes. They play an important role in transferring the sun's energy from plants to other animals that cannot eat plants directly. (From "Bringing Nature Home" by Douglas Tallamy)

Therefore, if we want to have a variety of bird life in our gardens, we need to encourage insects; a richly diverse backyard habitat will contain lots of beneficial insects which should keep down the populations of insects we consider pests.

BUG OFF!

The best way to control pests in your garden is to encourage birds, toads, and beneficial insects to prey on them. But when an infestation gets out of control, try these environmentally safe, homemade solutions.

All-Purpose Spray: works on many pests, including slugs and Japanese beetles:

Chop 1 garlic bulb and 1 small onion in a blender. Add 1 teaspoon powdered cayenne pepper and 1 quart water and steep for one hour. Strain through cheesecloth. Add 1 tablespoon liquid dish soap so the spray sticks to plant leaves. Mix well. Spray the mixture on both sides of the leaves and store remaining spray in a labeled jar in the fridge. NOTE: Certain plants are very sensitive to soaps and can develop leaf burn. Always test on a leaf or two the day before spraying the whole plant. (From Organic Gardening)

Helen Hamilton



Williamsburg Botanical Garden

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Williamsburg, VA 23187

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WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

Newsletter

Summer 2008

**NOTES FROM THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN
AN INVITATION TO YOU**

As I write this piece on a very warm June evening, I can happily report first hand that the butterfly garden at the Ellipse in Freedom Park has really come alive this summer. Without moving from my comfortable seat on the new bench, I can see a Monarch flitting back and forth between the blooms of the butterfly bush and the Virginia native gayfeather, bumblebees pollinating the buttonbush, and an assortment of colorful dragonflies everywhere. If I turn around, I see the bluebirds and finches darting between fence wires, daisies and birdhouses in the meadow. A toad is almost completely camouflaged in the pine needle mulch. Strolling the path, I see zebra, tiger and spice swallowtails



seeking nectar from the verbena and lantana. The large-faced annual and perennial flowers are nectar magnets for the butterflies and on previous visits painted ladies, buckeyes, hairstreaks and a variety of skippers have also been indulging.

The summer has only just begun. The ironweed, joe-pye weed and

sunflowers are budded but not yet in bloom. The butterfly garden has many more treats to offer from now through the early fall. Come visit soon. Come visit often. And remember to bring your own camera! You may even be able to spot the eggs, caterpillars and chrysalises on host plants such as fennel, rue and parsley as the butterflies complete their life cycle. Because butterflies are cold blooded, morning activity starts after the rising sun warms the garden. They are most active during the heat of the day, but in the early evening hours the pace slows for closer study and photography.

We all have our own way of catching butterflies. "Digitally" works best for me, although my camera click seems loud amidst all the serenity of this quiet buzzing and chirping! Butterfly garden pictures can be viewed on the WBG website (williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org) and we would love to share your photos and observations there as well. (email terryjack1969@msn.com) If you are interested in creating a butterfly garden in your own yard, a list of nectar and larva plants recommended for the Tidewater area can be found in the information box near the gate.

Jack Johnston

**Williamsburg Botanical Garden
Mission Statement**

"To support a botanical garden in the Williamsburg area with leadership, resources and an enduring commitment."

Board of Directors

Karen Jamison, *Chair*
Charlie Martino, *Vice Chair*
Linda Martin, *Treasurer*
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Clare Britcher
Joanne Chapman
Terri Christin
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Helen Hamilton
Helen Kidder
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Marshall Warner
Scott Whyte
Robin Bledsoe, *Executive Director*

Honorary

Dr. Marc Cathey
Andre Viette
Dr. Donna Ware

Chairman's Message

Summer Greetings,

We have exciting news to share! It is with great pleasure that we welcome our newly appointed Executive Director, Robin Bledsoe. Robin has been the Executive Director for two other nonprofit organizations in the community. Her work with the Botanical Garden will focus on capacity building and fund raising. She brings talent, skills and experience that will be of great benefit towards moving our organization forward.

The Memorandum of Understanding WBG signed with James City County in July 2005 is up for renewal this year. It was an agreement between the two parties to create a garden in Freedom Park. County officials are in the process of reviewing the document and we are optimistic that the MOU will be renewed by the end of this calendar year. We have worked diligently to be good stewards of the two-acre site and we are grateful to the county for this bountiful gift of nature. The garden has presented challenges and has reaped many rewards for the community. The Ellipse is growing and maturing into a beautiful garden in Freedom Park.

On the horizon is the possibility that WBG may be able to acquire a larger piece of property to create a signature garden. The site is located on the Jamestown Beach Campsite property near Jamestown Settlement. The James City County "Shaping Our Shores" best land use study is in the planning stages at the present time. Consultants hired by county officials to create a vision for three prime properties will be revealed later this summer. The master plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors later in September. At the present time, Williamsburg Botanical Garden is sketched on the map at the Jamestown Beach Campsite on a piece of the property surrounding what once was the Vermillion home and gardens overlooking the James River. It would be a spectacular venue to create a magnificent garden.

During the next few weeks we are making plans to meet with county officials, garden clubs and other interested constituents to talk about our plans for the future. In the meantime, we will continue to nurture, enhance and maintain the garden in Freedom Park. We will not abandon this beautiful site we have worked so diligently to create.

We encourage you to contact county officials in support of WBG efforts to acquire a piece of the property at Jamestown. Go online or call the County Administration office to find contact information for the James City County Board of Supervisors. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments about these efforts or visit our website at www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org.

Enjoy the summer and Mother Nature's beautiful bounty!

Karen Jamison, Chairman

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting, October 15, 2008
Details to be announced

Williamsburg Botanical Garden Donors

We gratefully acknowledge your donations and sincerely appreciate your support of the botanical garden. Donors are listed in alphabetical order and represent dues and donations to the garden.

March 1, 2008-June 30, 2008

David and Ruth Anderton
Elizabeth Banner
Justin Borland
Stanley E. Brown
Michael and Terri Christin
...in honor of Karen Jamison
Cathy and Bill Clarke
Kathy Coomer
Community Services Coalition
Don and Janet Craig
Kathy deLeon
Peter and Frances Derks
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Jane Dye
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Donna M. and Stewart A. Ware
Page Laubach Warden
James and Judith Wentzel
Dorothy P. Whitfield
Peter and Margaret Williamson

Williamsburg Botanical Donor Levels

Thank you for your interest and support of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.
Visit us on the web: www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org

\$10.00 Student
\$25.00 Member
\$150.00 Civic / Faith Based
\$250.00 Corporate
\$2,000.00 Lifetime

***Membership Dues are now being collected on an annual basis. We no longer mail renewal notices.** A remittance envelope has been enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience. Please contact our webmaster David Banks at dfbanks@earthlink.net if you need information regarding your membership renewal or change of mailing address, telephone or e-mail address. Donations are always welcome! If your name does not appear on this list or in the last newsletter then your dues are due now.

GARDENING TIPS

Here are some tricks for ridding your garden of rabbit pests:

- Fill 1-gallon glass jugs with water, and set them near the rabbits' favorite vegetables. The jars reflect light, which startles the animals.
- Put milk jugs with their bottoms cut out over seedlings in the spring. (Be sure to remove them during the hottest part of the day.)
- Set old shoes or sneaker among rows and beds to give your garden a human aroma.
(From www.OrganicGardening.com)

Since the bunnies ate my broccoli seedlings before the second set of leaves emerged, I was interested in this paragraph from Organic Gardening's "Companion Plantings":

Allies: Many companion gardeners believe that beans, celery, potatoes, and onions improve broccoli's growth and flavor. Aromatic herbs, including chamomile, dill, peppermint, rosemary, and sage, are also supposed to be beneficial to broccoli and its relatives by discouraging pests.

Companions: Broccoli needs a lot of calcium, so plant it with low calcium feeders like beets, nasturtiums, marigolds, or sage. In rich, fertile soil, interplant broccoli with other cabbage-family members such as cabbage, cauliflower, collards, and kohlrabi, which share its heavy feeding habits. Underplant late-season broccoli with hairy vetch, a winter-hardy green manure that will live on to protect the soil after you harvest the broccoli.

Enemies: Many companion gardeners believe that broccoli and other cabbage-family plants are negatively affected by tomatoes. Some would add pole beans to that list, and others disagree about whether strawberries are good or bad neighbors. In scientific studies, decomposing residues of broccoli were found to have a toxic effect on lettuce seedlings. It's probably a good idea to remove and compost decaying broccoli plants instead of turning them under.

Growing guidelines:

Sow a fall crop directly in the garden in July through August. Harvest the terminal bud while the florets are tightly budded and green. If you leave the stem in the ground, you can harvest smaller side buds as they develop. Broccoli and other cabbage-family plants are heavy feeders, so top dress with compost or feed with fish emulsion every few weeks.



FOR THE BIRDS: Sunflowers attract birds and beneficial bugs.

Evidence: Researchers from the University of Florida conducted a bird census on five farms that incorporated sunflower rows with vegetable crops, and observed the birds' habits. Numbers of birds and the time they spent foraging were higher in areas that included sunflowers than in those that didn't. The researchers found remnants of caterpillars, grasshoppers, stinkbugs, beetles, and many other garden troublemakers in the birds' guts. Sunflowers served as perches from which the birds could survey the garden and then swoop down on their prey. Moreover, sunflower rows harbored big-eyed bugs, assassin bugs, and predatory wasps and spiders, all beneficial that migrated to nearby crops to hunt for pests.

Advice: Plant a central row of sunflowers amid your vegetables early in the season, so that beneficial predators can become established before pests become a problem.

Helen Hamilton

Gardening Tips, Continued on page 8

Meet the New Executive Director

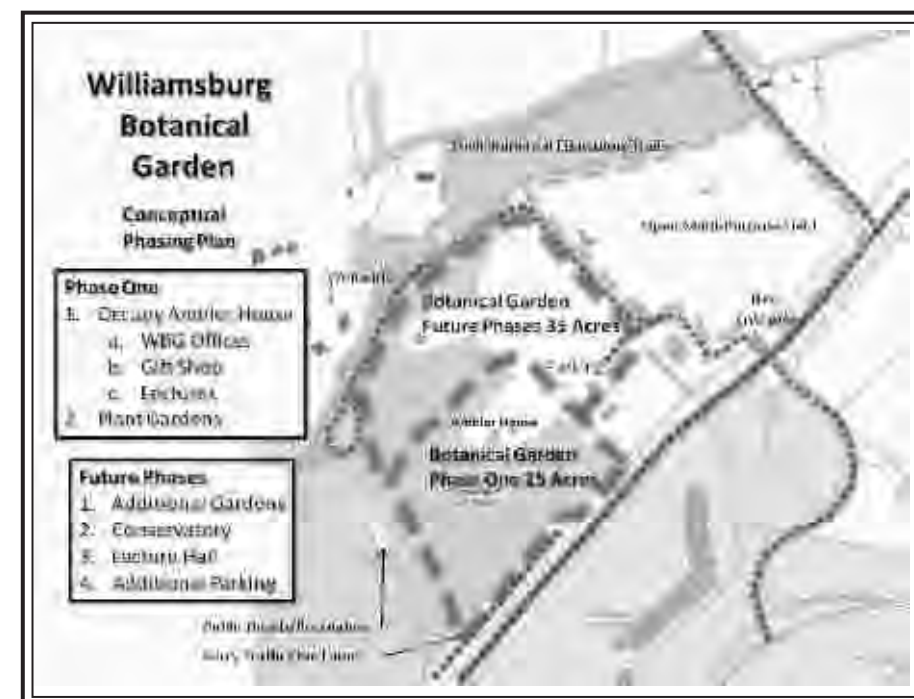


It is with great pleasure that I assume the role of Executive Director for the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. As most of you already know, the WBG Board of Directors is quite passionate and dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the beautiful Ellipse Garden as well as hoping to develop another larger garden at a future site. The WBG Board of Directors has submitted a conceptual plan outlining our desire to develop the Jamestown Beach property into a botanical garden. One of my primary responsibilities is to help make that vision become a reality. Fellow garden coinsurers define a botanical garden as "a bit of heaven on earth" or "a plot of paradise" or my personal favorite "a canvas of soil or water, where the artist creates and often propagates a living, changing, spiritual and delightful quality of work, with form and harmony." What better time than the current, when travel is expensive and money is tight, to create a place of wonder for our community to enjoy. To date there is only one other coastal botanical garden in the country and no other botanical garden that could be described as a living museum next door to a historical museum.

This is a wonderful opportunity to create a place where memories can be made by sharing weddings, receptions, school fieldtrips, or maybe a picnic. Some of my most cherished childhood memories are from the walks that my brother and I took with our grandmother each summer while visiting area gardens. We did not appreciate her knowledge of nature at its best nearly enough at the time, yet both of us grew up to be adults who appreciated the outdoors and enjoyed growing our own gardens.

I believe the WBG is poised to take on this challenge while still being excellent stewards of the Ellipse Garden. However we cannot do it without your help. Please take a moment and email your local supervisor. Let them know you too want to create a community treasure where our children's children can experience "form and harmony" while making their own cherished memories.

Robin Bledsoe



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Ellipse Garden at Freedom Park : Immediate help needed in the areas of watering, weeding, and seasonal garden care. Groups welcome! Training provided. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help at the Ellipse Garden call 903-9103 or email robinbledsoe@cox.net

SAVE THE DATE!

Williamsburg Botanical Garden Annual Meeting
October 15th at Cooke's Garden Center Pavilion
Invitations to Follow

MAKE THE CALL!

Please show your support for Williamsburg Botanical Garden's desire to develop a portion of the Jamestown Beach Property into a botanical garden. The garden will emphasize education, plant sustainability and conservation....please call your local County Supervisors and encourage them to vote yes. Let's build a community treasure together!

The WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

Presents
Monthly Learn and Grow Educational Series

IRIS

The Perfect Perennial for Williamsburg
with

P. Michael Locketell

Owner, Roots & Blooms, LLC, Richmond, VA
AIS Certified Garden Judge, Reblooming Iris Chairman for AIS Region 4
<http://www.rootsandblooms.us/index.htm>



Monday, October 6, 2008



7:30-8:30 PM

Williamsburg Regional Library - Scotland Street
Free Admission

The iris is the symbol of European Royalty, yet it is one of the easiest perennials to grow: deer-proof, drought-proof, with many new varieties blooming in both spring and fall. Find out why the iris is the perfect foolproof perennial for Williamsburg gardens.

WILLIAMSBURG_BOTANICAL_GARDEN 757-229-1995
www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org

The WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

Presents
Monthly Learn and Grow Educational Series

"Butterfly Gardening"

with

Denise Greene

Owner, Sassafras Farm in Hayes, Virginia
Member, Virginia Society of Landscape Designers



Saturday, August 2, 2008
(Rain Date: August 9, 2008)



10:00-11:00 AM

5535 Centerville Road
(Freedom Park) Williamsburg

Learn from an expert in native plants how to have a colorful and low-maintenance garden that is a magnet for butterflies and hummingbirds.

(NOTE: This program is rescheduled from April, 2008)

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The WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

Presents
Monthly Walk and Talk Educational Series

"Drought Resistant Plants for Homeowners"

with

Helen Hamilton

James City County Master Gardener
Virginia Native Plant Society Board Member



Saturday, September 6, 2008

10:00-11:00 AM

5535 Centerville Road
(Freedom Park) Williamsburg



Are you tired of irrigating your yard and paying summertime water bills to keep it looking nice? There are beautiful plants that thrive in our hot, dry summers that can save you time and money. And bring the kids along, we will have a water-wise demonstration, and the kids will get a free HR3 Family Activity Handbook.

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Yes, you CAN have gorgeous flowering bulbs in your Williamsburg garden!

The WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

Presents
A Learn and Grow Evening Lecture

PEST RESISTANT BULBS

with

Brent Heath

Owner of the World-Famous Brent & Becky's Bulbs
www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com



Tuesday, September 16, 2008

7:30-8:30 PM Free Admission

Williamsburg Community Building
401 North Boundry Street



Learn from a world-class expert which flowering bulbs naturally resist deer, rabbits, squirrels, voles and insects. Also learn how edible bulbs like lilies, tulips and crocus become more pest resistant when the bulbs or leaves taste or smell bad to pests--or find how to create physical barriers that will keep those pests at bay.

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www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org