

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

NORFOLK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Catalog of Volunteer Programs for 2016

The Norfolk Master Gardener Association is pleased to offer many volunteer opportunities that support the mission of Virginia Cooperative Extension to promote environmentally sound horticultural practices and sustainable landscape management techniques. Volunteer for as many as coincide with your time, interests and abilities. These programs, many of which place Norfolk Extension Master Gardeners in the public eye, demonstrate that Extension's Master Gardener program is available to provide accurate, research-based horticultural information to the residents of Norfolk and throughout our community.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

ARBOR DAY:

TREE SEEDING: On Saturday in April or May (TBA), 9am to noon, we sow tree seeds at the City of Norfolk Nursery in the St. Bride's area of Chesapeake. The seedlings grow during the summer for our give-away to Norfolk residents in the fall.

TREE ADOPTION: 1st Saturday in October, 9am to 2pm, Lafayette Park.

Program Leader: Linda Ahlgrim

ASK A MASTER GARDENER AT NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDENS:

- Norfolk Botanical Garden, 3rd Saturday, 11am – 3pm, March through October.

We use the Heutte Library at NBG and the library assistant is there to help us with their resources. The Garden advertises through various media, and has a sign posted in the lobby. People bring in their plants and problems for advice. We also have the NBG staff gardener and the NMGV Help Line as back-up assistance.

Program Leaders: Tim Mansfield (primary), Bill Gerhardt & Joanne Tocce

BUTTERFLY HOUSE GUIDE:

- Late June through September

To provide face-to-face assistance to the public in identifying plants best suited for all stages of the lifecycle of local butterfly varieties. We also advise how to grow the plants and what problems and rewards residents may encounter with a butterfly garden. **Requires 1-2 hours specialized training provided annually by NBG.**

Program Leader: Cathee Giagnacovo

COMMUNITY GARDENS "COACHES"

To introduce community groups to the principles and practices of community gardens. We advise and educate organizations about how to establish community gardens in local neighborhoods, to improve quality of life and promote environmental stewardship.

Program Leader: Michelle Fuller

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Events that provide opportunities for NMGs to inform and educate the community at different venues.

Examples of activities: offer horticultural brochures, MG bookmarks, brochures, and soil test kits. Display photos of MG activities. Discuss what we do with members of the public and about how MGs might help their organization. Promote the annual Training class, NMGV Speakers Bureau, and other Extension MG programs. Field gardening questions and refer problems to Help Line. Community ASK events may require access to subject specific resources.

These events generally are not regularly-scheduled programs, but apply to NMGV activities that interface with the public that do not fall under our other VCE-approved programs. Prior approval by the Agent is required to earn Extension MG credit.

Program Leader: varies with each event.

CRAPE MYRTLE PRUNING

The Norfolk Master Gardeners have partnered with the Norfolk City Forester's office to educate residents on:

- Proper pruning methods
- The importance of proper tree pruning
- Norfolk rules regarding care and maintenance of trees located on city property
- Appropriate tree pruning safety precautions

We are organizing small groups of community volunteers to learn more on this subject and perform minor pruning and remove suckers from city crape myrtle trees.

Program Leader: Paulette Crawford

EAST OCEAN VIEW CHILDREN'S GARDEN:

- Tuesdays, 10am-noon in summer and 4-5pm in winter
- Garden chores on Tuesdays, 9am

NMGVs work with youngsters to plant, tend, and harvest vegetables in several garden plots on the recreation center grounds. At the end of the season, the children have a fish fry, featuring vegetables from their garden. Many of the children have never seen the plants from which their food grows. The recreation center also is the site of Camp EOY, a summer camp for Norfolk children. NMGVs must comply with volunteer requirements for working with children that are set by the City of Norfolk.

Program Leader: Juanita Snead, Program Mentor: Gill Gillespie

ERNIE MORGAN CENTER ECO GARDEN:

- Seasonal, 2nd Friday of each month, 9am (or as needed)

The Eco Garden is an educational, recreational, commemorative and aesthetic feature of the Ernie Morgan Center. Here, Norfolk residents can learn more about native plants, resource conservation and sustainable garden practices.

Program Leaders: Debora Mosher

FRED HEUTTE CENTER GARDENS:

- Year-round, Thursday mornings, 9am

Located in Ghent Square, the Garden features a variety of herbs, perennials and vegetables. Demonstrating square foot gardening practices, produce is grown, harvested and donated to the Southeastern Foodbank of Virginia. NMGVs host two public tours of this garden each year, with additional opportunities to answer questions from the public or work with schoolchildren in the garden.

Program Leader: Tom West

HELP LINE (683-2855 or nmgvhelpline@gmail.com):

- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9-noon, April through October.

NMGVs answer gardening questions from the public from the VCE Help Line desk. We respond to email, telephone, and walk-in requests for info. Extension and other university-research reference material is easily accessible. After completing at least one introductory session with a knowledgeable NMGV, interns are encouraged to work in pairs. The Agent is also available for consultation.

Program Leader: Kate Melhuish

HERMITAGE DOCENT PROGRAM:

Program at The Hermitage Museum and Gardens to educate, share, and inform the public – adults and schoolchildren – about the benefits and process of building and restoring a shoreline wetlands ecosystem. The Hermitage "living shoreline" program provides an urban example to residents and businesses along the water. **The Hermitage provides necessary training in wetlands and ecosystems using SOL guidelines.**

Program Leaders: Kate Melhuish & Tom Kent

LI'L SPROUTS AT ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays starting March 15, 3-4pm

NMGVs help the children design, plant and maintain a small vegetable garden on school grounds. Our plan is to grow seasonal vegetables and distribute what we grow through a local charitable food organization. NMGVs must comply with volunteer requirements for working with children set by the Catholic Diocese of Virginia.

Program Leaders: Tom West (Thursday) & Olena Peterson (Tuesday)

NATIVE DUNE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN:

- Seasonal, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (or as needed)

This experimental garden promotes dune plant diversity and offers examples of native plants that will actually grow in the sand. Special programs include the East Beach Secret Garden Tour in May and other events as scheduled. This garden is located at the north end of 27th Bay Street, in the East Beach community.

Program Leader: Gayle Green

NEWSLETTER "THE GERMINATOR":

- Monthly, submission deadline *last Friday of the prior month*

The official word of the Norfolk Master Gardener Association, the Germinator is written, produced and edited by NMGVs. It shares the latest info of interest to NMGVs, including updates on programs, training opportunities, and VCE policies. Published monthly, jobs include writing, photography, editing or typing, collating, labeling, and mailing. Submit articles directly to germinator@nmgv.org.

Program Leader: Betrice Hovey

NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN INTERPRETER:

NMGVs will have the opportunity to work in specific sub-garden areas to engage NBG visitors in conversation and to answer questions. NMGVs will promote ecologically-sustainable horticultural practices by providing advice and information to visitors and more specifically to the home gardener.

Program Leader: Bill Gerhardt

NORFOLK MASTER GARDENERS & STEWARDS CELEBRATING RESILIENCE:

NMGVs have been educating and advocating sustainable horticultural and environmental practices for years! These stewardship practices are critical components to Norfolk's resilience initiative. Let's re-examine our existing programs and create new linkages to partner with the city on this exciting initiative.

Program Leader: Valerie Stallings

SIGNIFICANT TREE PROGRAM:

- Seasonal, Mondays, 8:30-11:30am

NMGVs use set characteristics which define and identify a tree as significant to locate trees fitting that profile for the City of Norfolk's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Open Spaces (RPOS). Significant trees may be on city-owned land or private property. Norfolk's Significant Trees are featured on <http://significanttrees.norfolk.gov>, with regular inputs and updates from NMGVs.

Program Leaders: Bob Hudson & Rose Muza

SPEAKERS BUREAU:

An opportunity to educate the public and speak to civic leagues, garden clubs or other organizations interested in horticulture, gardening, the environment and related topics. Provide contact with other organizations and general public anywhere within the City of Norfolk. A catalog of current topics is shown on <http://www.nmgv.org>, the Norfolk MG website. Speakers may choose their particular topics, and set their own limits on audience size or time of day depending on personal comfort level.

Program Leaders: Kate Melhuish & Diane Fleming

SPRING & FALL PLANT SALES

- Weekend of May 21-22, 2016, 10am-6pm - Stockley Gardens Art Show
- Saturday, October 1, 2016 – Arbor Day Tree Adoption – Lafayette Park

Volunteers will be needed ahead of time to collect and deliver plants, prepare materials and price plants. Many NMGVs are needed to work on sale days, including set-up, tear-down and clean-up. NMGVs are also asked to propagate & pot-up plants from their gardens for the sale. This sale is a major opportunity to promote our organization to the public, respond to gardening questions, give plant advice and raise funds to support our work.

Program Leader: Shirley Robinson

VIRGINIA STATE FAIR:

- Date TBD (one day only during the Fair's run Sep/Oct)

Several NMGVs travel as a group to Caroline County for the State Fair. Work part of the day in the Extension Master Gardener booth and have free time to visit and enjoy the fair. This is an all-day event.

Program Leader: JoAnne Childress

WEYANOKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:

- Seasonal, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 9am-noon
- Guided Nature Walk on 3rd Saturdays

The sanctuary is on property managed by the Cape Henry Audubon Society, located at the west end of Gates Avenue in West Ghent. NMGVs learn about native flowers, plants, and wildlife while maintaining the sanctuary. NMGVs help to host two public Open Houses at Weyanoke each year, and help to conduct the monthly Nature tours.

Program Leaders: Debora Mosher & Donna Van Keuren

ZOO GARDENS:

- Year-round, every Monday at 8:30am and Thursday at 9:30am

AFRICAN VILLAGE GARDEN

An organically-grown demonstration garden of African-related vegetables and flowers that enhance the African exhibit at the zoo. NMGVs plan, plant, and tend this garden year-round. NMGVs also discuss the garden and answer questions for the zoo visitors.

VIRGINIA BARNYARD GARDEN

An organically-grown demonstration garden of heirloom and hardy plants. NMGVs tend to seasonal vegetables and plants year-round, preparing soil, planting, watering, weeding and other chores as needed. NMGVs also discuss the garden and answers questions for the zoo visitors.

Program Leaders: Gill Gillespie & Margene Swift

ZOO HORTICULTURAL CART:

- Thursdays, 10:00 – 12:00 (weather permitting), approximately all year

Designed for children, the Zoo Horticultural Cart is a cooperative endeavor between Norfolk Master Gardeners and Virginia Zoo, connecting plants, animals and people through story and craft. There are two formats: “Thyme in the Garden,” a drop-in educational cart, is an outdoor experience presented during warm weather, incorporating a brief lesson with a hands-on-activity to make and take. “Garden Tales” is a horticultural-based story time and related craft.

Program Leader: Lynda Gunn