



Portsmouth Master Gardeners Association Newsletter-March 2024

Note from the President

“The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising and never really satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they ever have before.” Vita Sackville-West (Sissinghurst Castle Gardens)

It’s March already and we’re all looking forward to what we’ll plant and how splendidly our gardens will thrive. We’re working with Churchland Branch Library to put in a seed exchange cart - more information on this as the program evolves.

The Intern Training class is going very well but we need more volunteers to help with hospitality, the raffle and speaker/moderator. If you have time, help!

There are many opportunities to get in some hours this month – check Signup Genius for a full list.

Our Early Bird Greenhouse sale for PMGA will be on Friday April 12th from 1-3pm; for the public on Saturday April 13th from 9-12. Our next PMGA meeting is on Monday, April 18th at 9 am. See y’all there!

PMGA President- Glenda Richard

Library Talk-Principles of Healthy Pruning by Louise Roesser

On February 21, 2024, JC Gardner gave a rip-roaring talk on Principles of Healthy Pruning to a crowd of about 30. He outlined why we prune, why it is important for “Right Plant, Right Place”, and why it is essential to understand your plant growth habit. He also reviewed the two types of pruning and when is the best time to prune. Good job JC!!

Officers

- President-** Glenda Richard
- V. President-** JC Gardner
- Treasurer-** Lu Anne Copeland
- Secretary-** Michelle Ryan
- Past President-** Barbara Byers
- Cor. Secretary-** Nancy Perkins

Standing Committees

- Communications-** Ellen Bible
- Education-** Louise Roesser
- Horticulture-** Kathleen Duke
- Ed Officio Advisor VCE Horticulture Agent-** Cyndi Wyskiewicz

Upcoming Events

- Library Talks- 6:30-7:30pm at Churchland Library**
- Mar. 20-** Starting Plants from Seed & Seed Swap
- Apr. 17-** Starting a Vegetable Garden
- Apr. 13-** Early Bird G.H. Sale-9-12pm
- May 4-** Spring Plant Sale



Getting to Know Your Master Gardener- Jimmy Robinson

What year did you join the PMGA?

2014

Which PMG activities do you enjoy the most?

Greenhouse Maintenance-upkeep and care for seedling to final planting.

What is your favorite type of gardening? Vegetables? Containers? Annuals/Perennials? Others?

Vegetables in ground and containers

What other hobbies do you enjoy?

Setting in the shade watching the garden grow

As a PMG volunteer, what impact do you feel you have made on our community?

Helping with churches, schools, and city projects that promote helping the environment



Test Your Horticulture Knowledge

Answer the 10 following questions (answers are at the bottom but don't cheat!) and see how you rank.

1. Reasons for pruning include:
 - a. controlling plant size
 - b. improving the quality of flowers, fruit, foliage, or stem
 - c. preventing personal injury or property damage
 - d. all the above

2. Specialized training include:
 - a. espalier
 - b. bonsai
 - c. topiary
 - d. all the above

3. If you were going to cut a branch 2" in diameter, which pruning tool would you use?
 - a. pruning shears
 - b. lopping shears
 - c. pole pruner
 - d. hedge shears

4. When cutting back to a side (lateral) branch, choose a branch that forms an angle of no more than _____ degrees with the branch to be removed.
 - a. 45 degrees
 - b. 55 degrees
 - c. 70 degrees
 - d. 90 degrees

5. The _____ is the swollen area of trunk tissue that forms around the base of a branch.
 - a. node
 - b. lateral area
 - c. branch collar
 - d. meristem area

6. Before transplanting, a tree or shrub should be root pruned
 - a. to stop nutrient flow
 - b. to reduce flowering
 - c. about a week before hand
 - d. about a year before

7. _____ and _____ are two types of vigorous growth that are considered undesirable and should be removed.
- water sprouts and suckers
 - top growth and root growth
 - lateral growth and bud growth
 - tap roots and fibrous roots
8. Pruning recommended for most deciduous shrubs consists of:
- maintenance pruning
 - gradual rejuvenation
 - extensive rejuvenation
 - all of the above
9. When should spring flowering shrubs be pruned?
- late January or February
 - early spring
 - mid-summer
 - soon after they bloom
10. Shrub growth habits include all the following EXCEPT:
- tree-like
 - trailing
 - mounding
 - cane

Answers- 1- d; 2-d; 3-b; 4-a; 5-c; 6-d; 7-a; 8-d; 9-d; 10-b

0-2 correct-needs improving; 3-4 correct-improving; 5-6 correct- getting better; 7-8 correct- most improved; 9-10 correct- Super Master Gardener!



Daphne odora

Keep Those Summer Blooming Bulbs in Mind!

By: Kathy Rivenbark

Source: (NC State Extension) ncsu.edu

When we think of planting bulbs, we often think of fall. However, don't forget these summer blooming bulbs (corms, tubers) that can be planted in spring for a beautiful summer bloom.

- **Caladiums**- These exquisite tropical plants range in size from 6-12 inches and are available in a variety of colors. Plant after the last chance of frost. Most of the caladium cultivars prefer shade, but some can tolerate morning or "partial" sunlight. They look so "cool" in a summer garden!
- **Dahlias**-Delightful Dahlias benefit from full sun to partial shade. They bloom from late summer to early fall. Dahlias require ample water during the summer and prefer a rich well-drained soil. These lovely flowers come in a variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. Some varieties will require staking due to their height. Dahlias make a great cut flower for the home gardener.
- **Gladiolus**- "Glads" are easy to grow and are available in a variety of colors. The corms can be planted in early May. Plant about 4-6 inches deep and about 6-8 inches apart. Many gladiolus corms do not over winter. They may be dug up and stored in a mesh bag at 35-41 degrees F.
- **Tuberous Begonia**-A gorgeous flowering bulb, tuberous begonias, can be used in flower beds or in a hanging basket. They need to be watered well, but do not like their foliage to get wet. Plant the tubers after the last chance of frost.

As you begin to plan your summer yards or gardens, don't forget to consider planting these bulbs (corms, tubers) or other summer bloomers such as lilies and daylilies, this spring.



Meet our New PMGA President- Glenda Richard

By LuAnne Copeland

- 1. How did you end up in Portsmouth, VA?**
I came here to work at the Portsmouth Public Library.
- 2. Do you have any gardening memories from your childhood?**
My mother, grandmothers, aunts all had beautiful gardens – it was their refuge. They had cutting gardens also. I was allowed to help cut the flowers, etc. to bring inside.
- 3. What is your favorite thing about gardening?**
When things bloom - to cut and bring inside to enjoy.
- 4. What made you want to join the Portsmouth Master Gardeners?**
When I retired I knew I wanted to be around positive, creative people, to always be learning something and I wanted to learn how to have a garden. What I knew about the Master Gardeners told me it was just such a group. And so it is!
- 5. Since you are now the president, what is your vision for the Portsmouth Gardeners going forward?**
I don't really have a specific vision. I would like for everyone to be involved in what we do, to believe in it, and to enjoy it.



Upcoming Local Garden Events

Hoffler Creek

- Volunteer Workday-March 16 10:00-1:00 PM
- Arbor Day Tree Walk-April 26th 10:00-12:00 (\$15)
- Go Birding Day Talk and Walk 10:00-12:00 (\$15)
(Please see their website to register for events.)

Norfolk Botanical Gardens

- Native Shrubs-April 2 10:00 AM-11:30 (\$16/\$21)
- Pollination of Orchids-April 4 10:00 AM-11:30 (\$16/\$21)
- Climate Change and Virginia April 9 10:00 AM-12:00 (\$16/\$21)
- Cut Flowers for the Home Gardener April 16 1:00 PM-3:00PM (\$21/\$26)

Virginia Wesleyan University

- Garden Club of Virginia Daffodil Show-“Dancing with Daffodils” March 27th
2:00-5:00PM
Free and open to the public. Virginia Wesleyan University Jane P. Batten Student Center, 5817 Wesleyan Drive, Virginia Beach.

Intern Class Graduation-2023



Graduates include: Jenna Archer, Denise Bertelli, Elaine Butler, Shelley Callahan, Sam Cook, Gene Erb, Bonnie Mackneer, and Caitlin Niblick.

Congratulations!

Portsmouth Master Gardener Year-end Review- 2023

Vegetable Display Garden- 6 volunteers, 310 hours & 1353.25 lbs. of produce donated to Cross United Methodist Church

Olde Towne Farmers Market- 32 volunteers, 411 hours, 1,147 contacts

PMG Helpline- 17 volunteers, 306 hours, 85 contacts

Plant Sales (Early Bird, Open Garden & Fall Festival)- 71 volunteers, 499 hours

Youth Programs- Churchland P&I & Waters Middle School, 24 volunteers, 369 contacts, 160 hours

Greenhouse- 31 volunteers, 811 hours

Great Things in 2023- 47 PMGs, 8 interns- 5,688 hours, Education hours-1,680, Service hours- 4,008, Contacts-3,937

Well Done!!



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