



Trumpet Vine

Knowledge for the Community from Loudoun County Master Gardeners

Summer 2011

Volume VII, Issue 3 www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org

LOUDOUN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MONTHLY MEETINGS

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
UNLESS NOTED, MEETINGS ARE HELD AT
THE VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
OFFICE, 30B CATOCTIN CIRCLE SE,
LEESBURG, AT 7PM

July 7. *Flora and Fauna in Wetlands*, Bruce McGranahan, Director of Rust Sanctuary. Bruce is a licensed civil and environmental engineer with a passion for wetland ecology and conservation.

August 4. *Autumn Gardens*, Donna Williamson. A Master Gardener, garden designer, garden coach and owner of Donna Williamson Fine Gardening. A teacher, Donna is also author of several publications and the book "*The Virginia Gardener's Companion*"

September 8, *Rooftop Gardening*, Wayne Mills of Wayne's Wholesale Nursery

October 6, *Humanely resolving Conflicts with our Wild Neighbors*, John Hadidian, PhD, Director, Urban Wildlife Programs, Humane Society of the United States

For more informations, please visit our web site at <http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org/>

Visit us on Facebook:
Master Gardeners of Loudoun County, Virginia.

Summer Gardening Events

The Summer brings the hot weather a just a few major events. Two places to see the Loudoun County Master Gardeners are the Fourth of July events in Leesburg. The Demonstration Garden at Ida Lee will be open during the 4th of July festivities. Plan to come visit the gardens, which will be staffed by LCMG volunteers to answer your gardening questions.

The Loudoun County Fair is slated for July 25th - July 30th. Come celebrate the glory of our agricultural heritage and enjoy the future with the 4H offerings. There are many events -rodeo, the pig chasing, horse demonstrations, Demolition Derby, and a BMX Bike show to name a few. The carnival midway is open in the evenings. Don't forget livestock! Lots and lots of Livestock! The LCMG will have a booth of educational material for your garden. Visit <http://www.loudouncountyfair.com/> for a full schedule.

Other places to find Loudoun County Master Gardeners to answer your gardening questions:

Help Desk at the Extension Office, 30B Catoctin Circle, Leesburg. You can call or email your questions, or drop by personally. Phone: 703/771-5150 Email: ex107mg@vt.edu

LCMGs are located at three different Garden Clinic locations every Saturday morning, from 9am until Noon:

- ❖ Leesburg Farmer's Market
- ❖ Purcellville State Farm
- ❖ Sterling Lowes Store.

For Gardeners, Stink Bugs are not a problem to sniff at

What do we do about them? After listening to Dr. Tracy Leskey, an entomologist at the USDA Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville, WV,we will continue to vacuum and toss them in the toilet.



Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs (BMSB) are native to China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan but were found in the US in 1998. Identified in Allentown, PA in 2001, Hagerstown, MD by 2003, Falling Waters, WVA by 2004 and finally in VA by

2005. Now they are found in 33 states. By 2007, populations increased, especially in homes. Last year, 2010, there was earlier season activity, and adults and nymphs were found to be eating over 300+ host plants. Also noted, was that the BMSB has 2 generations each year. In mid-May, the first eggs are laid. Within 50 days, you have adults. Those adults, who undergo an intense feeding frenzy, begin laying eggs in mid-August, yielding adults again in mid-October. So those stink bugs in your home now are trying to get out to reproduce. So stop them before they can!

The BMSB have been found to feed on Norway Maples, peach and apple trees, nut crops and vegetable crops. Most damage is not noticed till after harvest. Because of the damage last year, the BMSB is now classified as an Agro-Urban Pest. Which is to say that no other pest has caused the agricultural and economical damage that the BMSB has caused!

That being said, research is ongoing with looking at Biological Controls of viral or bacterial interference. Parasitic wasps, that are native to Asia, could be brought over to the USA. Environmental controls using light intensity, which effect males; and light wavelengths, which effect females and the Identification of the male pheromone are also being researched.

The one thing that the FDA and the USDA are being cautious about is introducing a predator to the United States for the BMSB. If we remember the 1980's, the multicolored Asian lady beetle was introduced to take on the cotton aphid in Georgia. They came in people's homes, crowded out the native ladybugs, upsetting that ecosystem and giving the rest of the US an annoying little beetle to contend with. We need to remember that for every bright side, there is a dark side!

Right now caulking vents, roofs, screens to prevent them from entering the house to over-winter can prevent the first generation of eggs. Continue to vacuum them up, or throw them in soapy water to kill them. Squish them -- contrary to urban legend, that does not attract more; in fact, the scent they release is a defense mechanism, and will ward off other BMSB. If using organic products, such as Impede, Neem oil or Entrust, the BMSB feign death, and if left alone, within a few days, they come out of a coma- like trance and continue to do their thing. There are black, pyramidal traps (to resemble a tree shape) that are being used to attract them. Dr. Leskey did say that Surround and PyGanic mixed together did have some effect on them. But Surround needs to be reapplied constantly, and PyGanic is a Broad-spectrum insecticide that will also kill beneficial bugs.

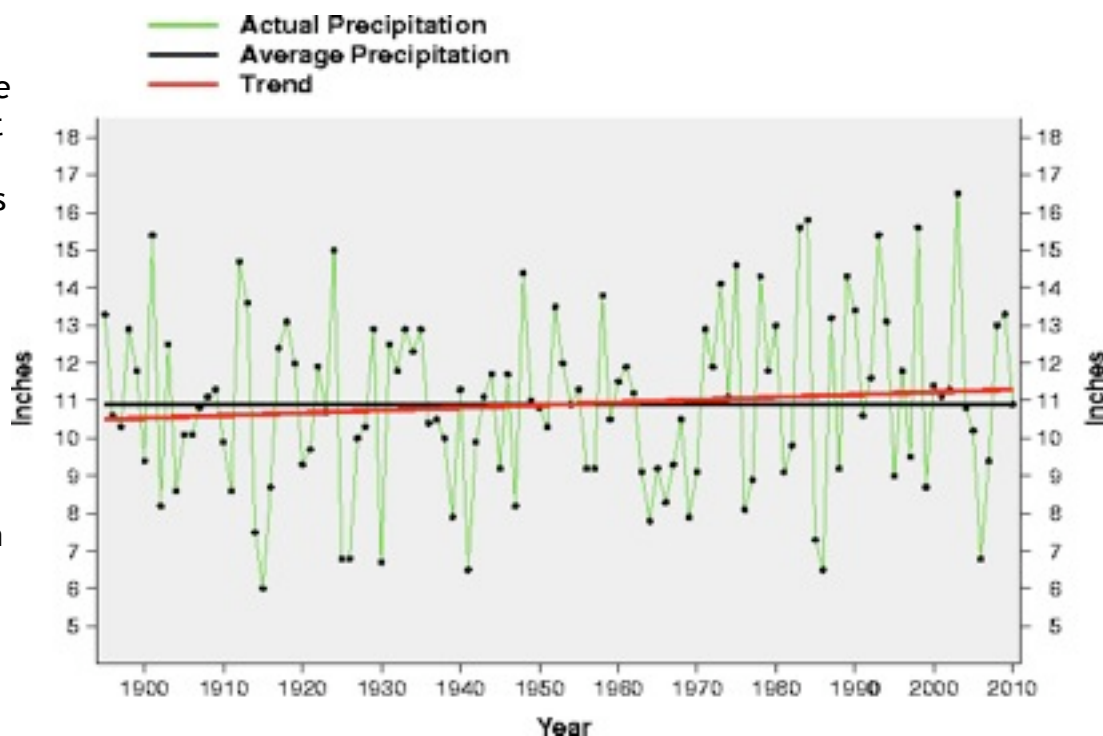
The good news is that there are no reports of BMSB eating lettuce, kale, rhubarb, cabbage, onions and carrots.....so plant these this year and maybe you can keep the stink bug away!

Diane Hayes, Loudoun County Master Gardener

Managing Storm Runoff

It is hard to believe that a few weeks ago we were in the midst of flooding in our area and now it is hot and dry. All in the law of averages as they say! Below is a graph depicting average rainfall in VA for the spring months (March-May) from 1895 to 2010.

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/cag3/va.html>



So, what can you do to manage storm runoff during these rainy periods? There are many things you can do to facilitate water flow, curb soil erosion and improve water quality. Depending on your landscape, one or more of these solutions may help you manage storm water runoff on your property.

If you have a situation where rain water shoots through your yard like a stream, taking soil, fertilizer and more with it, you may want to consider a rock bed (see picture). A rock bed can slow the water flow, helping it to percolate into the soil. This particular rock bed helps facilitate the water flow from a neighboring yard where rain water pooled at the base of the small incline on the other side of the fence. By reducing the amount of water streaming through the yard, it also stems erosion. A rock bed can also be placed on a downward slope to keep soil from washing down the slope. It allows the soil to build up in front of the bed before it hits the slope.



Another way to reduce runoff and erosion is through landscaping. Ground covers, shrubs and even turf grass can control excessive water runoff. Once established, the roots will grab the soil and contribute to the slowing of the water flow. The leaves from plants help deflect the raindrops from pounding directly on the soil and allow the water to actually soak in rather than go speeding down a hill. Liriope, moss, creeping thyme and blue star creeper are among some suggested ground covers. Our Master Gardener Demo Garden at Ida Lee has all four of these planted in our turf plot section if you would like to see them firsthand. If you have a large area subject to erosion, native ornamental grasses would do nicely to create a naturalized meadow. Some examples include

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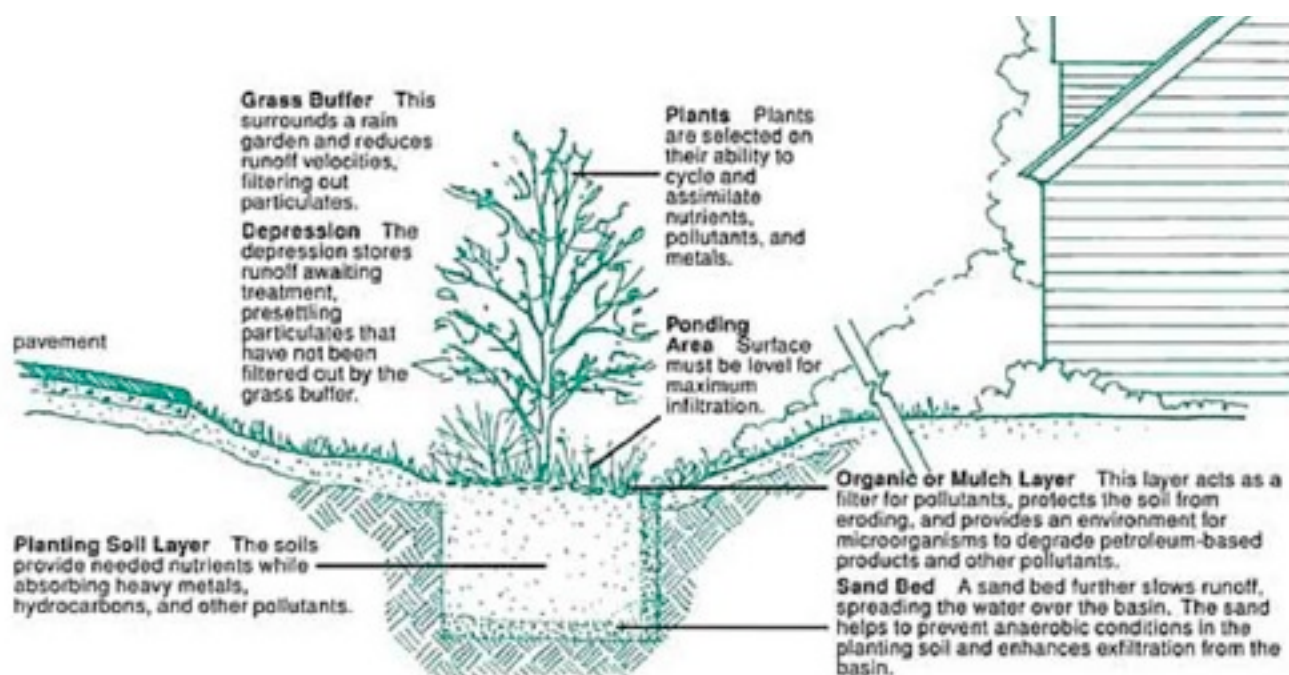
River Oats, Bottlebrush grass, Switch grass, Plume grass and Big bluestem grass.

A third solution may be a combination of landscaping and hardscaping. If you have a very steep area subject to runoff, then it may need some type of terracing or retention walls built to trap the water (see picture). Within the terrace, plant ground covers or shrubs that will help retain the water. Never leave the soil bare after planting, always apply mulch to reduce water runoff and increase absorption.



A rain garden may also be a good fit for your landscape. Rain gardens capture the first runoff from a down pour and filter the water through native vegetation, thus reducing significant amounts of storm runoff and renewing groundwater quality. The rain garden can be almost anything you want from size and shape to plants. Here is how a rain garden works (picture and text from Dept. of Forestry):

A rain garden can be placed to catch runoff from a roof, a driveway, the lawn and more. It is important to note that a rain garden is not to be put where water is already forming a pond in your yard. In these areas the soil has been compacted and is not allowing water absorption. The soil has to have good drainage before you can install a rain garden, which may require amending with sand, topsoil, compost and/or leaf mulch first. Please refer to



the Department of Forestry Rain Garden Technical Guide at www.dof.virginia.gov for more specifics on rain gardens.

Resources:

VT Publication Reducing Erosion and Runoff: http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-722/426-722_pdf.pdf

Green Springs Plant lists: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/gardening.htm>

Barb Bailey, Master Gardener

Summer Color

Boy did I have fun researching for this article! I was looking for some easy plants with lots of varieties to choose from and then I have either given a general description and care of the plants or featured one of the newer varieties out there. And I found some pretty amazing new varieties out there...now if I can just find them at the garden center! Hope you can find



something here that peaks your interest.

Zinnias as a whole are easy to grow and easy to maintain. And talk about color for the summer! You couldn't ask for a more vibrant color selection. The ones pictures at the left are Art Deco, a new variety, that offers some wonderful colors, check out that peachy sherbet color in the lower left corner! And the ruffled petals! Great wow factor, these beauties reach 3 feet tall! The other picture is of Peppermint



Stick, which also grows to about 3 feet tall. All zinnias make a great cut flower and will add cheer to your garden. To see all the different selections out there, go to Goggle Images and enter in zinnia - then good luck making a decision.



Superbells® Blackberry Punch - "A Real Simple magazine - Top 10 Goofproof Plant". And after reading about it I can see why. As with all Calibrochoas Blackberry Punch has vigor, heat tolerance and resistance to disease as some of its traits. One of their other traits is not liking wet feet...this is why they tend to do better in a container vs. in the ground. Make sure you have well drained soil if you are planting into your flower bed. You may trim them back if you like - they don't need it but it will help with branching and gives the plant a fuller look. No deadheading, attracts humming birds...what more could a gardener ask for? A spectacular flower and foliage combo? Well Blackberry Punch has that too, just look at those flowers set against that silver grey green foliage. Yummy! 8-14" tall; trails up to 36", blooms all summer up until frost.

Bandana® Cherry Sunrise Lantana - I was never a big Lantana fan until I found a purple one. So since I love purple I bought some and planted them and boy, were they great for me. I hate the heat...kinda strange for a gardener, but there you have it. So when I realized how little I needed to water lantanas...I bought some more. And this one, Cherry Sunrise is just an amazing color combination. Besides being heat and drought tolerant, lantanas attract all our favorite wildlife, bird, butterflies and hummingbirds. So try one out, in full sun please. Cherry Sunrise grows up to 26" tall and is considered a tender perennial - so if you have a sunny protected spot - you just might get it to come back the next year. Cutting back the berries may help with reblooming. As an FYI - according to the Humane Society of America Lantana leaves can be toxic to pets. This means that the plants are generally identified as having the capability for producing a toxic reaction.



(Continued Next Page)

Trumpet Vine

'Jade Frost' sea holly - Okay - I have tried to grow Sea Holly and killed several of them, much to my disappointment. I was told they are easy to grow. Well upon further research I found that they are easy to grow - but difficult to establish! But what a neat plant to have in your garden with it's dramatic candelabra flowers spiking into the air, and because most visitors won't know what it is and will ask about it, then you can puff up and proudly tell them all about it. So, armed with the new knowledge that they are difficult to establish and this new variety that is just knock out gorgeous...I am going to try again.

Full sun, blooms May-July, blooms can be cut and brought inside to enjoy or left on the plant to dry and enjoy. Heat and drought tolerant....once it is established! Disease-free.



Hydrangeas - how can we talk about summer color and not talk about Hydrangeas? One of my favorite shrubs, I am looking forward to planting 10 or 20 of them in my new yard! Can't wait. There are several new varieties out this year, new in the Endless Summer series is the first magenta colored Annabelle hydrangea with the easy to remember name Belle Anna. It is pictured first; this is a continuous bloomer just like the rest of the Endless Summer collection.



Next up is **Little Lime®**, a smaller version of Limelight®, with the same lime green flowers that over the course of the summer and fall turn to a dusky pink. Little Lime reaches a maximum height around 5 feet.

Then there is **Hydrangea paniculata 'Strawberry Vanilla'**, with it's tri-color blooming in shades of white, pink and rose, 10" in diameter. As

quoted on one website, Hydrangea Vanilla Strawberry is destined to greatness in American gardens. This award-winning flowering shrub has great vigor, colorful flowers, & superb disease resistance. What more can you ask for in a flowering shrub? And it makes a stunning cut flower subject - where they will last for over 12 days!"



And last on my list is **Hydrangea macrophylla Lemmonhoff** whose ruffled petals are reason enough to be included in this list. Color changes according to your soil pH, growth is 5' wide and 5' tall. Do a search for yourself on the web - there are so many more to choose from! Have fun and have a great summer.

Becky Phillips, Loudoun County Master Gardener

Summer in the Vegetable Garden



Hot (*Okay ...really hot temperatures*) have signaled the start of summer not only at the beach but in the vegetable garden. The plants and seeds purchased in the wet chill of springtime have finally made their way into our gardens. Spring vegetables like spinach and radishes have already succumbed to the late spring heat. Now we eagerly await the first sun kissed tomato, the chilled cucumber bursting with summer rain or maybe even the first green striped zucchini squash which signals to the neighbors to beware of them who bear zucchini “gifts.”

Summer is the season of maintenance versus planning and preparation. Here are some tips to keep your garden in top shape.

Mulch, mulch and mulch! Mulch is vital for conservation of water, keeping down weeds and disease prevention. Use straw, dried grass clippings (herbicide free), compost, shredded newspaper, pine needles (use on perennials like strawberries or rhubarb) or one of the commercially available plastic mulches which are laid down at planting time.

Water ... but water wisely. Most vegetable plants are shallow rooted so they will need more water during the heat of summer than established ornamentals however do not water every day. Test the soil first by sticking your finger into it. When the soil up to your 2nd knuckle is dry, then water. Water early in the day and consider drip irrigation lines instead of overhead watering which increases the risk of disease.

Enjoy the fruits of your labor! Leaving ripened produce on the vine indicates to the plant to reduce or stop production in addition to providing an open invitation for critters to stop by and enjoy a bite or two.



Control weeds around the vegetable plants as weeds compete for nutrients and water. Be careful not to disturb vegetable roots with weeding tools.

Energy boost! Annual vegetables must do a whole lot of growing in a very short time so they may exhaust nutrients in the soil early. If summer vegetables are looking tired, usually in late July or August, give them a foliar feed of fish emulsion with kelp extract or make a compost tea. Don't overdo it as too much may decrease veggie production.

Monitor for pests and disease often. Make garden visits a daily part of your routine. Handpick undesirable insects in the early morning and drop in soapy water. Identify diseased plants promptly as most should be removed and disposed of in the household trash. The Master Gardeners can help identify pest and diseases of the vegetable garden.

Plan for a Fall garden while sipping your lemonade by the pool. The month of August signals the start of planting for fall vegetables and an entirely new season of fresh eating from the garden.

Lastly enjoy the benefits of growing and eating fresh produce from your garden. There is none better than yours!

Denise Palmer, Loudoun County Master Gardener

Solarization Works

It may come as no great revelation to the horticultural world, but your friendly Demonstration Garden Team can now confirm - of its own experience - that “solarization” really works. For those who don’t recognize the term, solarization is sort of the organic gardener’s answer to Round Up. It’s a way to get rid of weeds without risking the adverse effects that glyphosate, the active ingredient in the herbicide Round Up, may present to humans and to the environment. Solarization is simple. You just cover the area that you want to purge of weeds with a layer of transparent plastic sheeting and let it stand for a month or two during hot weather. The sun’s heat will raise the temperature beneath the sheeting to probably about 125-140 degrees Fahrenheit, sufficient to kill all emergent weeds, weed seeds, fungus, bacteria and other such problems within the top four-to-six inches of soil.

The Demo Garden Team tried solarization last year at the suggestion of Debbie Dillion, our Loudoun County horticultural agent (who also happens to be the best agent in the whole state). We had had problems growing buffalo grass, a variety of turf native to the Midwestern prairie that some gurus had touted as a low maintenance option for lawns here in Northern Virginia. But the buffalo grass seed germinated too slowly. The more eager weed seeds emerged first, thrived, and crowded out the buffalo grass. We gave up on the buffalo grass and decided to try Irish moss in its place. Not wanting to repeat our battles with the relentless pressure of weeds, this time we solarized our little eight-by-eight trial plot. It worked. We planted our Irish moss last fall, and this spring we found it amazingly free of weeds, while nearby plots were overrun with seemingly every variety of weed.

Want to try it yourself? Here’s what to do:

- ❖ Clean the area of debris, break up any large clods of dirt, and rake the area smooth.
- ❖ Dampen the soil.
- ❖ Cover the area with transparent plastic sheeting and secure the edges to keep it from blowing away. The sheeting can be anywhere from one to six mils in thickness. The thinner sizes will foster higher heat, but will also deteriorate more quickly under the hot summer sun. We used a painter’s plastic drop cloth. It was less expensive and its size fit our needs.
- ❖ Let the sheeting remain in place for a month or two during hot summer weather. During cooler fall or spring months, solarization will be less effective, though many gardeners claim that keeping the sheeting in place for a longer period, perhaps two-to-four months, will still produce satisfactory results.
- ❖ Solarization may not be the answer for a homeowner attempting to re-seed a typical 5,000 sq. ft. suburban lawn. Deploying plastic sheeting over such a large area would likely prove unwieldy. But for flower beds and vegetable gardens it seems well suited. It kills both weeds and soil-borne pathogens, and it does so without the undesirable side effects of glyphosate-based herbicides such as Round Up.

Your Demo Garden Team

Summer is for Planning, Fall is for Planting

Fall is the best time to plant trees but now is the time to plan that planting. Consider why one more tree in your yard might be a good idea

- ❖ Trees are cool - on a hot summer day trees cool the air by 9 to 13 degrees.
- ❖ Trees are clean - they absorb huge amounts of carbon dioxide and pollutants like ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide through leaves. Trees also intercept particulate matter like dust, ash and smoke
- ❖ Trees make the air we breathe - trees produce oxygen through photosynthesis
- ❖ Trees add beauty and value - healthy, mature trees can increase property values by up to 10%
- ❖ Trees provide peace - trees serve as sound barriers and screens; they reduce noise levels and create privacy.

Do you have a place for a tree?

Trees are like puppies. That cute little thing can grow up to be very big. Always research and account for the size of the tree when it is fully grown. Just like dogs, trees come in all



Red Maple

shapes and sizes. Don't plant an Irish Wolfhound when you only have space for a Yorkshire Terrier. Tree shapes also range from narrow to wide. A properly selected and placed tree should not need pruning to maintain a proper distance from buildings or other trees. Don't plant a standard Red Maple when your space calls for a Columnar Maple.



Columnar maple

Consider overhead wires. Never plant a tree that will grow tall under wires. Instead select a smaller tree such as a dogwood, redbud, service berry, fringe tree or American hornbeam. Consider the

placement of sidewalks, driveways and parking lots. Tree roots need plenty of space and access to rainwater. Also some trees have shallow roots that may crack paved surfaces. Maples, ash, sweet gum, tulip tree, pin oak, and willows are examples of shallow rooted trees. Porous pavers partner better with trees than impervious surfaces.

Planning and researching

Summer is a great time to plan and research your new tree. Consider the site conditions and your needs. Is it a spot that is often wet or one that floods? Sycamores, maples and river birch tolerate these conditions, oaks do not. Do your screening needs call for an evergreen? Research tree species using the internet, tree texts and an arborist consult. Consider native trees first, select a younger rather than an older tree, then plant in the fall and water as needed for the next two years or more.

Don't be afraid to invest in the future

While some trees take over a hundred years to become breathtakingly magnificent, those trees still look just fine in 10 years and then get better with age. If you have the space and the right spot, consider planting a white oak (*Quercus alba*) that will be appreciated by future generations.

Carol Ivory, Loudoun County Master Gardener & Tree Steward

Feed Loudoun: Plant A Row for the Hungry

While growing vegetables and fruits from one's own plants is very rewarding, sometimes gardeners may find themselves with a little more harvest than they can handle. Many vegetable crops & fruit trees yield all at once, and there are only so many times the neighbors will be grateful for another cucumber...

What can be done with that extra harvest? That's where "Plant a Row for the Hungry" comes in!

Launched in 1995, *Plant A Row* is a public service program of the Garden Writers Association and the GWA Foundation. Garden writers are asked to encourage their readers/listeners to plant an extra row of produce each year and donate their surplus to local food banks, soup kitchens and service organizations to help feed America's hungry.

There are over 84 million households with a yard or garden in the U.S. If every gardener plants one extra row of vegetables and donates their surplus to local food agencies and soup kitchens, a significant impact can be made on reducing hunger.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1 in 8 households in the United States experiences hunger or the risk of hunger. Many frequently skip meals or eat too little, sometimes going without food for an entire day. Approximately 33 million people, including 13 million children, have substandard diets or must resort to seeking emergency food because they cannot always afford the food they need. The demand for hunger assistance has increased by 70% in recent years, and research shows that hundreds of hungry children and adults are turned away from food banks each year because of lack of resources.

Loudoun Plant a Row is currently encouraging all individual gardeners, farmers, and agri-businesses to donate their surplus fresh produce directly to feed the County's hungry via the Loudoun Interfaith Relief food pantry in Leesburg.

It's easy to donate: you can drop it off locally, or take it in directly to Loudoun Interfaith's distribution center near the Leesburg Airport. If you want a receipt (donations are tax deductible), take your produce directly to Loudoun Interfaith Relief (LIR) off of Sycolin Rd in Leesburg, near the airport. Local drop-off sites are located in Leesburg, Hamilton, Potomac Falls, Round Hill and South Riding. Consult www.feedloudoun.org for LIR hours and directions, and for other site details.

Does your family or church want to try a little gardening this year that's also a service project? We'd love to be a partner in your venture!

Feed Loudoun is a local non-profit whose mission is the growing and donation of local fresh fruits and vegetables through gardeners, farmers and agri-businesses for the purpose of feeding the county's hungry in conjunction with Loudoun Interfaith Relief in Leesburg, Virginia. Read about us at www.feedloudoun.org.

Thanks for helping out the hungry. Happy gardening and may we all eat well this season.

Gina Faber, Master Gardener



My "Bee" Adventure

I never in a million years expected to take an interest in bees and pollination. But, having attended a lecture on bees, sponsored by the Master Gardeners a few months ago, I became fascinated with these hardworking little insects. Shortly after the lecture, I attended our Master Gardeners Symposium in March where I met a vendor of "bee houses". She was selling the houses, which are about the size of a bird house with one exception — instead of one hole to accommodate a bird, the house had about 37 small holes drilled into it and each hole was big enough for a hollow dowel and empty straw to slip into it. The bees attracted to this house are called Orchard Mason Bees (OMBs), native pollinating bees that must compete with honey bees which are not native to our country. OMBs generally lay eggs in holes in dead wood left by other critters, such as carpenter bees, sap suckers and woodpeckers. Our suburban gardeners often remove such dead wood, thus no nests for OMBs.

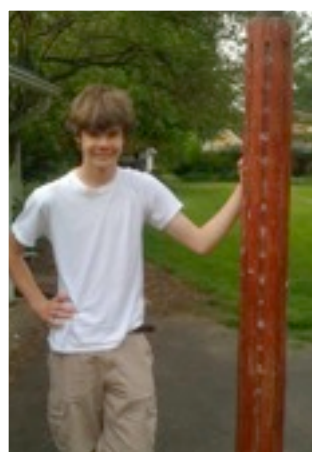


There were no honey bees in America until the colonists brought them to Jamestown, VA, so they could have honey with their scones. Although they don't produce honey, the OMBs are three times more efficient at pollinating our flowers and trees because they all evolved together, which is also the reason they don't get the diseases from which the honey bees are dying. The best news is that mason bees don't have stingers and they don't defend their nest if disturbed — they simply fly away. That was enough to convince me to buy a house and give it a try.

We put our little house up early in April, making sure it was securely fastened to our house facing southeast and about five feet above the ground to keep critters away. Within two days I noticed that the bees had found their little house. They busily gathered nectar and pollen and laid an egg on top of it in each straw. When the straws are filled up with eggs, the females collect mud to safely wall it off from predators. Hence, they are called "mason bees". I have noticed that about half of the 37 straws in our little house are already filled. After 6 - 8 weeks, the females die but the larvae consume the stored nectar and pollen, spin cocoons and remain in their cocoons as adults until it's time to emerge the following spring. In late October I will gently remove the straw liners out of the holes and place them in a cool location, such as a garage or shed, where the temperature remains

between 32°F and 41°F. I obviously haven't attempted this next phase yet, but next spring, when the temperature is regularly above 50°, I will place the straws in an opened, empty milk carton near the bee house so the bees can hatch, mate, and begin the cycle all over again. It's a fascinating show to watch these little insects and it's a great feeling to know that they are doing a terrific job of pollinating. I would encourage anyone who is interested to get a native bee house. For more information see <http://www.ournativebees.com>.

You can make your own OMB house using any untreated wood and drilling $\frac{5}{16}$ inch holes, 3-5 inches deep. Get creative and use old pieces of wood, old newel posts and other pieces of decorative wood.



Beatrice Ashford, Loudoun County Master Gardener

Book Review

Grow the Good Life, Why a Vegetable Garden will Make You Happy Healthy, Wealthy and Wise by Michele Owens

One of my favorite blogs is Garden Rant (<http://www.gardenrant.com>), with four wonderfully wacky gardeners, one local to Maryland. *Washington Post* gardening editor Adrian Higgins says that Garden Rant is "one of my favorites: A blend of gossip, news, crusade and, yes, raw rant, it blows the cobwebs out of gardening's mustier corners." I love their Manifesto (found on the front page of the blog) and spend way too much time reading their blog, but they make me feel good about my garden and adventures in said garden.

So, loving their blog and loving to read - I have begun to read their books. I did a book review on Amy Stewart's *Wicked Plants* in an earlier issue of Trumpet Vine. Then Michele's book came out - and even though I am not a veggie gardener the title made me laugh and thru the amazing power of Amazon - the book was mine.

The book continued to make me laugh throughout the reading. It also made me think seriously about starting a veggie garden, next year, because I am too caught up in my new perennial beds this year. Michele makes a brilliant case for everyone - no matter where you live - to have a vegetable garden. She actually makes it seem rather ridiculous NOT to have one, what with all the benefits it provides;

Happiness - the pure joy and entertainment value of a garden, and she includes for children also, sharing stories of her own two in the garden.

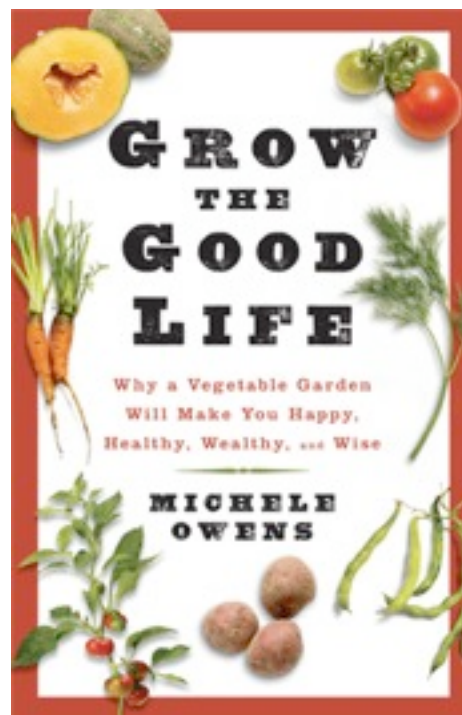
Health - from the labor you put into the garden (which Michele gives advice on keeping in simple) and the actual consumption of produce grown.

Wealth - she makes a great case for the money saved by growing your own, along with other side benefits.

Wisdom - well who wouldn't feel wiser after accomplishing the above?

Why wouldn't we all be out there planting and growing our own veggies? And Michele has not one but **two** gardens at **two** different homes, and helps out with a community garden and raises two children and writes for two blogs, wrote this book and on and on.

Becky Phillips, Loudoun County Master Gardener



LCMG Gardening Symposium

The Second Annual LCMG Gardening Symposium held at Carradoc Hall, March 4th and 5th was a success despite an over abundance of rain all weekend. The atmosphere was upbeat and fun as Master Gardeners, weekend gardeners and newbie gardeners came together to learn and to share the knowledge and joy of gardening. Once again we had both national and local speakers imparting their words of wisdom and sense of humor about all things garden related.

An expanded vendor show, with everything from “Baa Baa Poo” to Mason Bee houses to t-shirts and garden ornaments gave attendees plenty to check out during the breaks. Oh, yeah, there were plants too!

So we are now on to planning the Third Annual and with the rate the attendance is going - we once more are looking for a bigger venue. Topics that have made the list include; seed starting, bee keeping, veggies, landscaping for beginners, landscape remodeling, lawn care, roses, lawn care, herb gardening, blueberries and small fruits, and so much more! So keep us in mind for the first part of March 2012, we will have a date, place and more details to follow in the fall issue. Note that this is not a fundraising venture for LCMG, so the syposium is surprisingly affordable!

And thanks to all who helped and all who attended the Second Annual LCMG Gardening Symposium...we made the TV!!!

Becky Phillips, Loudoun County Master Gardener and Symposium Lead

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