

Gardening on the Shore

Fall, 2020

Message from the President

At long last! After eight excruciating months, the Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardeners has finally been able to gather together as a group in person and face to face. On October 6, we held our regular general membership meeting outside at Fran Kubick's house. Almost 30 members attended the event and all COVID safety protocols were observed. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed seeing their old friends. Everyone was happy to renew some Master Gardener spirit that COVID may have dimmed a little over the last many months. Many thanks to Fran for allowing us to meet at her beautiful home.

As you probably already know, Fran will soon be moving across the Bay to a retirement "party" community. Accordingly, Fran has been given Master Gardener Emeritus status. She certainly has earned this status based on her seventeen years of service to this organization. We will miss Fran and wish her only the best.

Currently, we have two exciting activities underway. First is our election process. Ballots will be sent out soon. We have nominations for all open positions except for Member at Large Accomac. Please consider volunteering for this position.

Also, a new training class started on October 7 with twelve future Master Gardeners enrolled. The Education Committee has gone above and beyond the call of duty to make this class happen under extremely adverse conditions.

With a new Executive Board and a new class, I am excited about what the future holds for our wonderful organization! Although COVID has slowed us down for the last year, I believe that 2021 is going to be a fantastic year for all of us.

Please try to stay involved in our many Master Gardener activities during these difficult times.

Stay safe and hope to see you all in the near future.

Phil Goetkin

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Feature Article

AN INTERVIEW WITH ERIC GUNDERSON

By John McCormick, ESVMG Master Gardener

The following is from an interview with Eric Gunderson, owner of Southern Branch Nursery in Chesapeake, VA. We chose Southern Branch Nursery because they eat, sleep, propagate and sell native plants! They offer other landscape services as well, but, as Master Gardeners, we are always seeking reputable sources for native plants to enliven our beautiful garden environments. After visiting the nursery and talking with Eric, we think we've found just the business to "fit the bill!" But, we recommend that you visit the [website](#) and take a ride out to the nursery and see for yourself the extensive selection of healthy native plants they offer.



Eric graduated from Virginia Tech in 1979 with a degree in Nursery Management/ Landscape Design. He began his career working for London Bridge Nursery as Nursery Manager. He founded Southern Branch Nursery in 1981, which was initially located in Great Bridge, and moved to the current location in 1995. SBN was established to provide "consultation, design, and installation services for wildlife and wetlands conservation." They now propagate and grow over 350 species of native plants. A current list of available plants is on our website.

ESVMG: Thinking back to before graduation, who would you say encouraged you the most to follow the path to the degrees you received and what caught your attention to go into this field?

EG: My gravitating to this field of employment was influenced by many people and my surroundings. My parents and grandparents were gardeners and we were outside a lot. I worked for a friend's Dad as a high school summer job. We cleaned up people's yards and planted trees and shrubs. From an early age I knew that I enjoyed working outside, but I soon learned that I really loved working with plants.

My summer jobs during college sold me on wanting to be employed in this field. I worked one summer for a retail nursery potting plants and weeding, etc. Another summer job was with the

National Park service helping install a bike path. So, my goal before I ever got my first job out of college, my long term plan, was to have my own nursery business of some kind.

ESVMG: How did the name Southern Branch Nursery come to be?

EG: Our business name came from naming it after the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River where we first started.

ESVMG: Speaking to design, when reviewing the portion of the website that introduced your staff members, several of them had Design Certificates and Degrees. Then, I noticed your Nursery hours open to the public are only on Friday & Saturday. Would it be safe to say that the greatest portion of your business is involved in “consultation, design and installation services?”

EG: I have learned that you have to be flexible if you are to stay in business, especially as a small business. When I started, I had a business partner. He was awesome. Our business philosophies were different. Mine was to never put off to tomorrow what you can do today and his was opposite.

Needless to say, he left. So being in business, you have to be flexible. I have had employees work with me in the retail end of the business for 20 years.

No business is perfect, and you have to adjust to the times. When I sold my business property on N. Battlefield Blvd I wanted to get out of the retail business as I

was having no fun with that. I didn’t want to be selling clay pots and Christmas Trees, working seven days a week. I was burnt out. For the first three years in business I was closed only three days a year. We provided landscape plans and installed gardens, fish-ponds, patios, driveways, night-lighting - trying to provide everything in the landscape services.

I am older now and only want to do in business what gives me joy. It has never been about the money. All the employees that I have had since moving to Benefit Road know that if you don’t like this kind of work it is hard. If you do like it, then your day goes easy and quick. We enjoy conservation landscaping and educating the public about the importance of natives in the landscape.

ESVMG: The web-site defines a native plant as “....a plant that is indigenous to a given geographic area.” Would there, then, be a difference between Chesapeake and Hampton Roads....or Chesapeake and the Eastern Shore? Would perhaps some “native plants” do okay in all 3 areas?

“There is often an overlap with native plant species. What plants grow on the lower end of the Eastern Shore can be found in our Tidewater area.”

EG: The Virginia Coastal Zone Management has sponsored native plant marketing booklets for the different physiographic regions of the state promoting the regional native plants that would be found there. There is often an overlap as you would guess with plant species. What plants grow on the lower end of the Eastern Shore can be found in our “Tidewater Va.” area and vice versa. I don’t know off hand if there are any species growing exclusively on the

shore or here that you couldn't find in the other area.



Sample native garden designed by SBN.

ESVMG: The website reads, "We now propagate and grow over 350 species of plants." Does this mean that you are self-supplying about 95% of your planting material or do you purchase more from others according to need and/or design plan? You also say that you "strive to use only straight species (as opposed to cultivars) of plants." Why not cultivars?

EG: We have many jobs at the nursery. One of the most fun is to secure local seeds and scarify them for seeding out in our propagation greenhouse starting in early February. Trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials are seeded out in late winter to early spring. We do as much local seed source as we can. We put up the propagation house several years ago because we couldn't buy what we wanted to use on our jobs. We do still purchase landscape plants from other nurseries as needed. It is a guess as to how many and which plants will be needed for projects during the year. We continue to seed in the greenhouse as our needs change up until mid-June.

We sell to other environmental landscape firms, marine contractors, universities, and the public. We grow for ourselves and sell retail and we buy in as needed for our own

use when we are out of stock on our specified conservation landscape jobs. We do not bid on commercial work. We offer consultations and provide planting plans for individuals and companies for us to install or if they want to implement our plans and install themselves. As the demand gets bigger, we will be open to the public more days than Friday-Saturday. We install gardens the other days of the week.

In regard to your question about why we strive to use only straight species, we avoid cultivars because they are a vegetative clone of one another and have lost their genetic diversity.

ESVMG: The website says "We propagate native wetland plants and upland trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflower perennials from locally collected seed sources." What do you mean by "locally collected seed sources"?



EG: We collect seed from our area where the plants grow naturally, not from areas outside our region. We have permission to gather what we need from homeowners' properties, parks, and road way natural areas so the gene pool stays diverse and varied. This is the only way the species of each plant can move forward in time with the genetic variability it needs to overcome disease, pests and climatic changes.

ESVMG: "350 species"do you have in that group one or two that you are particularly proud to have in stock for your clients? Any you think might do well on the Eastern Shore?



EG: I have no favorite native plants, maybe the Live Oak; however, I am trying to get into the nursery trade some under used natives that I use regularly that aren't being sold as yet. These include [Cyrilla racemiflora](#) TiTi, Blue Marsh Jasmine ([Clematis crispa](#)), Canada Rush ([Juncus canadensis](#)), and Downy lobelia ([Lobelia puberula](#)). Your native plant gardeners can do the research for why I like them so much.

John McCormick has been a Master Gardener since 2012 and just received an ESVMG milestone award for having volunteered over 1,000 hours. Thanks for the articles, John!

Articles of Interest

I DO IT MY WAY

By John McCormick, ESVMG Master Gardener

So here I am sitting on my back deck with a cold drink. It is late September and I have just spent a little bit of time cleaning out our two raised bed gardens of the debris from a somewhat successful summer/early fall growing season. Two 4 x 4 raised beds growing whatever veggies desired for two people seems enough to us.

The beds have been in use for about 8 growing seasons and were originally filled with a combination of commercial garden soil, dried cow manure and a small bag of playground sand split between the two boxes. Over the years they have been the growing homes for various vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, melons, and my favorite fall planting - garlic!

Before you fall over laughing, let's consider some interesting "Fun Facts" about garlic. It belongs to the Lilly family, has some 450 different varieties usually listed under 8 to 10 descriptive headings depending on where you find your information. It originated in Central Asia, became a food staple in Egypt and was first cultivated some 4,000 years ago. It is one of the oldest food flavors and has been found to be part of the Neolithic period some 7,000 years ago. Medically speaking, it is one of the healthiest foods on Earth because it's an anti-blood coagulant, antioxidant, antiviral, anti-microbial, lowers cholesterol, has anti-cancer properties, helps fight the common cold and regulates the blood pressure and

Thanks go to Ulli Hollingsworth who was successful in obtaining a \$350 grant from the Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District. Funds will be used for the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Songbird and Wildflower meadow.



contains many trace minerals needed for metabolic function plus vitamins C and B, fiber and amino acids. Besides all these great points, it is amazingly easy to grow!

But before we start discussing how to plant it, a couple of additional things to remember. First, keep your cat and/or dogs away from it, it could be fatal. Second, it has been said that it does send vampires and other evil spirits scrambling for cover, just in case you have that kind of problem!

The garlic that we have been planting came to us from friends in Appalachian, New York where the winters can get very cold for long stretches and snow is a winter staple. They sent it to me to keep me busy after I retired. Tony did not know the name of our variety as he picked up “a mess of it” at a Farmers Market to use as a first spring money crop. By “money crop” he meant that no one in his area was growing it, so at harvest his was the farm to supply it.

His family planted about a quarter acre of it the first year and although it was a bit of work to get it in the ground and dried out after harvest, during the winter there was no real work attached as he covered it with mulch to keep it safe and warm as it began to sprout. I have been planting the descendants of that boxful ever since and have enjoyed giving it to others to try to grow it as well as eat it.

There are two types of garlic, “hard neck” and “soft neck”. “Hard neck” has “scapes” and “soft neck” does not. More on “scapes” as we get to it.

After Columbus Day, it is time to get to it! Here are the steps to follow:

1. Shape up your boxes. Be sure you have enough soil and that the soil is ready to go. Till it, turn it over, get the lumps out and get it ready.
2. Prep the garlic cloves you will be using. Breakdown the bulbs to single cloves. You can take them out of their wrapper and plant them as bare garlic just like you would use for cooking, or not. I have done it both ways and both ways have worked.



A box ready for clearing.

3. In the ground they go. I usually plant the cloves in rows 3-5 inches apart and twice their height deep. The rows can also be 3-5 inches apart as well. The pointed side up and the flat or root side down. Cover them with soil, but you do not need to “stamp” it down. Press it a bit but don’t get crazy. Please note that I have not spoken about watering this planting because I have never watered our garlic – not ever. Whatever rain occurs is what the garden gets, nothing more.
4. Cover it with about 2-3 inches with some type of mulch. I use pine needles because they are readily available down

the street and come at no cost. I take my truck, my rake and a garbage pail and go down the road and get them. I also like pine needles because they break down and can be easily turned into the soil or easily removed if need be. The mulch will protect the garlic during the winter.

5. Now for the easy part. You wait to see what happens and depending on the weather, you may see plants pushing through as early as two weeks after planting. Let them be.....weed if you must but let them be. My experience tells me that they will sprout and may begin to grow 3" – 4" tall, but once the cold hits they flatten down and seem to rest and just like us, wait for the warm weather and the signal to take off.



6. The signal (under normal weather conditions) could happen sometime in mid-March. This year, when we had that first warm couple of days, our plants took off. Since the picture above was taken, their growth has slowed but the tips of the leaves are beginning to brown which takes us to the next step.



Garlic scapes ready for plucking.

7. Scape Time. Scapes are simply the flower stem of a "hard neck" garlic. Our experience with them is that as the leaves of the plant begin to go brown, the scapes will appear from the center of the plant. As they appear, they twirl themselves like a pig's tail. If left alone, they will twirl a couple of times and then stand up straight and go to flower and then to seed. We really do not want that to happen, so after they twirl once, gently grab them between your fingers as far down as you can and pull them out. The further down you can pull, the better. But, if they just snap and come up a little short, do not worry. You just have a short scape and can come back again as the stem may continue to grow out anyway.

Do not throw the scapes away. There are plenty of recipes on the web for preparing them to be eaten as pesto or sautéed like a vegetable. Our daughter, Elizabeth, makes a pesto for pasta which is delicious!

8. After the scapes are done, the leaves will continue to brown down and die off. I usually wait until the best part of the leaves have gone brown before I go

for my shovel. Some will tell you when 50% are done, some will say wait a little longer. It becomes your choice but don't wait too long. The calendar, depending on the weather, should bring us to late May or early June. Time to clean off your shovel!

9. The harvest. Knowing myself as not the most patient of gardeners, I grab my shovel when most of the leaves have died off. Push the shovel under the bulb and lift it up. It should just pop out of the ground. You will feel some resistance depending on root growth. Clean the dirt off them and set them to dry but not in direct sun light.

10. Curing Time. After a couple of days of drying, I cut the leaves off the bulbs leaving a 2-3-inch stem on the bulb. At

the same time, I will also cut off most, but not all, the roots. Make sure the bulbs are clean and find a somewhat dry spot away from direct sun and with some air flow to store them while they cure. Most important, you can eat the garlic right after you harvest it, but it may not reach its full flavor for possibly 2 or 3 weeks after it is out of the ground.

11. Storage. Storage has never been a real problem for me as I give most of what I grow away. But if you want to store it for your personal use, put it in a brown bag and stick it in your refrigerator crisper draw. Remember to take out only what you need because once the garlic sits in the cold, when it comes out it will believe it is time to sprout when it warms up.

By the way, I have read that garlic is a great companion plant and can be grown mixed in between several other vegetables and plants in your garden. Check the web for that information. One of my favorite garlic sites is keeneorganics.com. If you think you still need a little more convincing, go out on the web and ask the question, "how do you grow garlic?" I am sure you will find lots of information on how to proceed.

I hope this information has been helpful and encourages you to take a crack at growing your own garlic. Enjoy your garden and remember.....do it your way!

Master Gardener College Classes Still Available

If you registered for Master Gardener College this past summer, the online classes are still available for your viewing. This opportunity includes 27 different [recorded sessions](#) (4 keynotes, 23 concurrent sessions), totaling nearly 40 hours of available continuing education. Recordings and supplemental resources are also available to registrants through Dec. 31, 2020.

Log into the virtual Extension Master Gardener College site with your username and password to view the individual sessions.

PROPAGATION OF WOODY CUTTINGS

Jane McKinley, ESVMG Master Gardener



Have you ever seen roots growing from cuttings of pussy willow or forsythia? This is an example of how easy it is to start new plants from hardwood cuttings. Propagation by stem cuttings is the most popular method used to cultivate new woody ornamental

plants. These cuttings enable the gardener to have an exact replica of a favorite shrub or tree or to save money by avoiding the purchase of multiples of the same plant for groupings. And they are fun to do!

Late fall to early winter is the best season to take hardwood cuttings. Plants such as dogwood, figs, forsythia, euonymus, roses, and hydrangea are best taken from hardwood. The stems should be mature and leafless with no obvious signs of active growth. Semi-hardwood which is taken in Mid-July to early fall comes from partially mature wood of the current season's growth, just after a flush of growth. Softwood which is taken in May through July comes from soft, succulent, new growth. Azaleas root best on semi-hardwood and Redbuds root best on softwood. For this article, I will focus on hardwood cuttings since we are rapidly approaching the time of year when they are taken. To learn which plants root best on which types of cuttings, you can find a long list on the North Carolina Extension Publication "[Plant Propagation by Stem Cuttings](#)."

For greater chances of success, take cuttings from plants grown in full sun which have more stored carbohydrates due to greater photosynthesis. Carbohydrates provide energy for the cuttings until new roots can take over. Avoid taking cuttings from plants that are showing signs of stress (such as lack of water) or nutrient deficiency. In general, cuttings taken from young plants are more successful.

Congratulations on 2019 Milestones Met

The following ESVG members achieved milestone awards for total hours volunteered in 2019:

250 Hours

- Joyce Falkinburg
- Joanne Fitchett
- Diane Frey
- Suzanne Grizzard
- Victor Klein

500 Hours

- Diane D'Amico
- Paul Tiffany
- Susan Weir

1,000 Hours

- John McCormick
- Robert Shendock

Please be sure to record your hours in the VMS system so that you and ESVMG will get credit for all the hard work volunteered. Total hours for every unit are reported to Virginia Cooperative Extension, and we want to shine! And, more importantly, this recognizes you for the valuable time you have given to stay certified and to achieve the Master Gardener mission here on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Although the hour requirement has been lifted for 2020, the requirement during normal years is to volunteer a minimum of 20 hours and get 8 hours of continuing education per year.

Early morning is the best time to take the cuttings, and they must be kept cool and moist until planted. They can even be kept in a plastic bag in the refrigerator if not planted right away. The rooting medium should be sterile, low in fertility and well drained for sufficient aeration. A good mixture is one-part peat moss and one-part of either perlite or sand.

Make each cutting year-old stems, These are the points stems. Dip the lower and shake off any beneficial to

A good rooting medium is one-part peat moss and one-part either perlite or sand.

from the lower part of one-including at least two nodes. where the leaf attaches to the node into a rooting hormone excess. This is particularly hardwood cuttings because it

enhances the natural auxins which are lower in hardwood cuttings. Auxins are crucial to activating cell division and root formation. Insert the lower node vertically into the growing medium, making sure not to orient it upside down. The upper node, above the soil line, will be the place where new growth appears. Cover the cuttings in plastic and place them in indirect light. Most woody species that grow in our temperate climate root best when the temperature is between 65 and 75 degrees. Keep the cuttings moist until they have rooted.

New roots may form within a few weeks or take months, depending on the type of plant. Check for root growth by gently pulling upward on the cutting. If you feel resistance, there is a good possibility that they have taken root. Newly rooted cuttings should not be planted directly into their permanent location. Instead, move them to a larger container or plant in a nursery bed, providing good quality soil and moisture, and spaced 6 to 12 inches apart.

At first, they may need daily watering. Give them a through soaking when the top inch of soil is dry. Gradually increase the watering intervals to once or twice a week. Don't fertilize since tender new roots may easily be burned by fertilizer salts.

After a couple of seasons in the temporary bed, the new plants can be moved to their permanent site in the landscape.

Elections Underway

Ballots will be going out in mid-October for the election of officers for the 2021-22 term. The following candidates are running:

- President – Joyce Falkinburg
- Treasurer – Cindy Ray
- Member-at-Large Northampton – Jennifer Alley
- Member-at-Large Accomack – Robin Swert

Gardeners' Tips

EXCERPT FROM MASTER GARDENER HANDBOOK

In researching and talking to friends and clients about specific plant names, I am always reminded that it is important to know the exact genus and species, and even variety, so that we are not confusing two common names. Below is an excerpt from our Handbook which gives an overview of the scientific classification methodology.

Plant classification begins by dividing the plant kingdom into major divisions, separated on an evolutionary basis. The division that will be of importance to you is the most advanced division containing the so-called higher plants. This division, known as Tracheophyta, are plants with roots, stems, leaves, and vascular systems. Further divisions can be illustrated by using as an example the pink flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida* var. *rubra*).

The pink flowering dogwood is described by each of the following categories. The precision of the description increases as the list descends.

Kingdom: Plant

Division: Tracheophyta

Class: Angiospermae

Subclass: Dicotyledoneae

Order: Cornales

Family: Cornaceae

Genus: *Cornus*

Species: *C. florida*

Variety: *C. florida* var. *rubra*

Two names used together identify a particular plant in the same way as we use a person's first name and surname. Just as you have a first name and a last name, so does every plant. Your last name identifies you **generically** as being part of a particular group – Smith, Jones, or Mentha. Your first name identifies you, **specifically** – Sally, George, or Piperata (Pip for short). When writing your name to be classified, as on a government form, you put your generic name first followed by your

specific name – Smith, Sally; Jones, George; *Mentha piperata* (the species name is not capitalized in scientific names). So peppermint, *Mentha piperata*, is identified as being a mint by the generic, or genus, name *Mentha*, then is given individuality by the specific name *piperata*.

The **genus** (or general) name for a plant places it in a particular group, as in *Rosa* for the rose group. Knowing the genus still does not tell us the particular plant among the many relatives in the group. For that, we need the **species** (specific name, as in rugosa of the *Rosa* genus). By convention, the genus is given first and is capitalized, the species is the second and not capitalized, and both are in italics if in print or underlined if written by hand. The proper scientific name for this example is then *Rosa rugosa*, the Rugosa Rose by its common name.

But what happens when several related people, with the same generic name, are also given the same specific name? Margaret, for example – they all look different, but how do we differentiate among them in conversation, when we cannot point to them and say “that Margaret, not the other one”? We use nicknames, Meg, Margie, Maggie, Peggy.

These are like names of plant varieties. The **variety** is a subgroup name in which the plant differs only slightly from the species. This further delineates a specific plant. It is shown in Latin notation following the genus and species with the abbreviation var., as in *Mentha*

piperata var. *variegata*, the peppermint with the white-variegated leaves. So, with plants, the genus is the general plant group, and the species is used with the genus to designate a distinct plant type in the group. Species retain their distinguishing characteristics as they reproduce sexually in nature. Individual plants will exhibit some differences due to natural

variation, but they still fit the species characteristics. Sometimes, there may be a characteristic that differs enough from the true species to justify a different name, but not a different species. In these cases, then a subgroup of the species may be designated, usually as a variety (var.) but sometimes as a subspecies (subsp.) or form (f.).

From Master Gardener Handbook
Chapter 19, "Basic Botany"

FALL GARDENING TIPS



Now is the perfect time to get outside and experience the beauty of the season while preparing your garden beds for the cold winter months and for spring planting. With the temperature turning mild and drought conditions behind us, many of the plants are putting out a final burst of bloom and the leaves of deciduous trees and shrubs are putting on a show with their beautiful fall colors. We all have our routine chores such as dividing and transplanting perennials, raking leaves to add to the compost pile, and fertilizing cool season grasses. Below is a list of some other things to be added to your To Do list.

Wash and prepare winter bird feeders, suet cages and water sources. Winter is the most critical time of year to feed the birds. This time of year, they have little to forage, and they show their appreciation by entertaining us with their antics and beautiful colored feathers. Also be sure to leave your plants to produce seeds, waiting until late winter to clean them up.

Prepare water features and sources. Empty and store garden hoses, rain barrels, and fountains. Turn off outdoor faucets. Clean out eaves, troughs, gutters and downspouts.

Care for tender roots, bulbs, and plants. Dig up and store tender bulbs, such as dahlias. Clean up and bring tropical and other tender plants inside (this should be done before nighttime temperatures get below 50°). Take cuttings for plants that you wish to root indoors, including sweet potato vines, tomatoes, and geranium.

Plant a winter vegetable garden. Cool-tolerant crops such as kale, leafy greens, carrots, and broccoli, should get established before freezing weather sets in. If you haven't planted the by now, don't wait another day! Use frost covers and cold frames to protect the plants during the coldest months.

Collect seeds. Being sure to leave some dead flower heads for the birds, the fall is the time to harvest seeds of your favorite annuals and veggies. For plants that produce wet fruits (eggplant, melons,

cucumber, summer squash, for example), leave some unpicked and allow them to over-ripen before harvesting the seeds. Store seeds in a cool, dark, and dry place.

Avoid the temptation to clean up dead and dying perennial growth. These provide essential food and habitat for the bees, butterflies, birds, beneficial insects, and microbes. “Fall mess nurtures spring life.”

Something to Look Forward To

With 2021 right around the corner, a couple of ESVMG educational events are under consideration.

MASTER GARDENING TRAINING OFF TO A GOOD START

On Oct 7, this year’s Master Gardener training classes began. Trainees are observing face mask/social distancing guidelines and some of the classes will be taught via Zoom (Z). We have 12 attendees this year.

As in the past, you are welcome to audit the classes, but there is only limited space due to distance requirements. Please contact Christine Williams if you plan to attend. Below is the list of topics and dates:

- Oct 7 Care of Tools, Tool Safety
- Oct 14 Soil, Nutrient Mgmt, Fertilizers
- Oct 21 Botany I, Organic Farming
- Oct 28 Botany II, Entomology
- Nov 4 ES Water Supply Z, Habitat Gardening
- Nov 11 Pathology Z, Ambiotic Stress & Plant Damage Diagnosis
- Nov 18 Herbaceous Plants Z, Water Quality and Conservation
- Jan 13 Fruits in the Garden Z, Pruning
- Jan 20 Pesticide Use Z, Native Plants
- Jan 27 Lawns Z, Veg Gardening & Composting
- Feb 17 Plant Propagation Z, Indoor Plants

With the last Garden Symposium held in 2019, next year presents the opportunity to host our third symposium. The 2017 & 2019 symposiums were held in Cheriton in Northampton County. We are hopeful that the 2021 symposium will be able to be held in Accomack County, possibly in Chincoteague. Volunteers from this area are being recruited to plan and organize this event to be held in the fall. If you would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity, please contact Jocelyn Grover.

In addition to the symposium, a small group of Master Gardeners is doing some exploratory work to determine the feasibility of a 2021 ESVMG Garden Tour. The gardens will be located in and within close proximity to Cape Charles and will feature our Master Gardeners’ gardens along with a few other private Cape Charles gardens. If you are willing and interested in having your garden on the tour, please contact Phil Goetkin. Once we know how many Master Gardeners are interested in participating, we will begin working out the details of the tour. So, stay tuned!



Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardeners

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Jill Wright at [757-385-4769](tel:757-385-4769) during the business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. TDD number [\(800\) 828-1120](tel:800-828-1120).

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