



Letter from the Editors

This month we focus on [planning for fall planting](#) and turf management. **Leslie Cameron** and the Social Media Committee share resources for you to share, below.

On mild mornings, I like to sit in the backyard with a cup of coffee. Dachshunds Eve and Peter roam, patrolling the perimeter and premises. It is a magical time of day before the sun is fully overhead—when the extreme heat and drought become apparent. The mixed border of native plants that runs along the chain-link fence is in its glory: coral honeysuckle, yellow rudbeckia, green mountain mint, blue asters, and pink 'Magnus' coneflower. Many of the original plants originated at the Glencarlyn Spring sale. The black eyed Susans are almost aggressive in the way that they have spread throughout the border. 'Magnus' is not as aggressive. And while there is yellow down the length of the bike path, there were just a few spots of the pink 'Magnus.' So, despite July's inhospitable weather for planting, I bought half a dozen and planted them down the length of the border. Now, there are bright spots of pink and yellow and blue all the way down the border. Meanwhile, hummingbirds visit the prolific 'Amistad,' 'Black and Bloom,' 'Caradonna,' and 'Hot Lips' salvias every morning. Monarchs, swallowtails, and goldfinches follow later in the day. Such a miracle!

Look this month for articles from your fellow Extension Master Gardeners **Leslie Cameron, Nancy Davis, Leslie Fillmore, Debbie Keefe, Wendy Mills, Tyler Ormsby, Anne Reed, Cindy Robertson, Elena Rodriguez, Scarlett Swan, Julie Hanson Swanson,** and others.

The Board liaisons will no longer be submitting reports from the gardens, plant clinics, committees, and projects to *The Latest Dirt* for publication. Instead, please submit information directly to Nancy and Tyler. You, too, can submit photos, articles, puzzles, jokes, and recipes to *The Latest Dirt*. Articles should be about 200 words. Shorter is better.

Please use the [Virginia Tech Publishing Guide](#) to edit your work. If you refer to plants that are in our [Tried-and-True list](#), please create a hyperlink to mgnv.org. Similarly, if you mention another organization that has a good website presence, please create a hyperlink to that organization, too.

See you at the OVG Pepperfest on September 21!

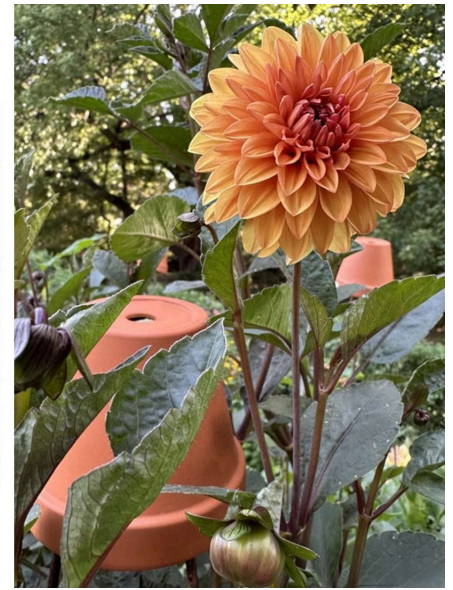
Nancy Smith Brooks, Newsletter Editor, nancy.brooks@mgnv.org

Extension Master Gardener, Class of 2016

Tyler Ormsby, Newsletter Technical Editor

Extension Master Gardener, Class of 2017

Photo: **Nancy Smith Brooks**, Extension Master Gardener, Border; Dahlia 'David Howard;' Salvia "Black and Bloom;" Arlington, Virginia, August 2024



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IMPORTANT LINKS

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[Important Dates](#)

[Leadership List](#)

[MGNV Suggestion Box](#)

[View The Latest Dirt as a PDF](#)

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Contact Our Tech Team!**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[President's Corner](#)

[Dirt from the Board - Looking for Board Members!](#)

["Members Only" Business Directory](#)

[Better Impact - #inVASives](#)

[Volunteer Coordinator Report](#)

[Committee News](#)

[What's Going on in the Gardens](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Plant NOVA Natives](#)

Have Newsletter Questions?
mgnvnewsletter@mgnv.org

Contact the Editor
Nancy Brooks
nancy.brooks@mgnv.org

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President's Corner

Greetings from the Board!

By **Julie Hanson Swanson**, *Extension Master Gardener and President*



After our brutal weather these past few months, it is encouraging to see the late summer flowers starting to bloom. Bees, wasps, and skippers alighting on goldenrod and Joe Pye are so delightful to watch. It's also fascinating to watch aphids, milkweed bugs, and native lady beetles battle it out on milkweed plants. One of my great joys as a Master Gardener is being able to help create and maintain natural habitat for birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects in my own backyard.

We are happy to announce a **Fall Fundraising Campaign** starting on October 1. Allow me to again thank the MGNV fundraising team, **Beth Buffington, Elizabeth Collaton, Wendy Mills, and Alyssa Ford Morel**, who spearheaded this new

approach with a highly successful internal appeal to members last fall. So, please stay tuned for announcements with the details on how you can support the amazing work your fellow Extension Master Gardeners plan to carry out in 2025!

Please also save the date for October 1 for our **Fall Membership Meeting**, which will be held via zoom. The focus will be on sharing volunteer opportunities with MGNV projects and programs. This should be particularly helpful for our newly certified Extension Master Gardeners and will also be an excellent refresher for seasoned EMGs.

Finally, we are recruiting for the **2025 MGNV Board of Directors**! The Board provides strategic direction, sets policy, and oversees finances for MGNV. It also coordinates with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator to



support MGNV's mission of promoting horticulture volunteerism and community improvement through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Serving on the Board is a fantastic way to better understand and appreciate the depth and breadth of MGNV programs and the impact MGNV has on our community. To learn why current Board members wanted to serve, check out [the MGNV Board webpage](#). If you are interested in becoming a Board member or if you want to recommend a fellow EMG, please contact **Cindy Robertson** at 202-841-5422 or by email at crobertson68@gmail.com.



Happy Gardening!

Dirt from the Board



Looking for Board Members!

We are recruiting for the **2025 MGNV Board of Directors!** To learn why current Board members wanted to serve, check out [the MGNV Board webpage](#). If you are interested in becoming a Board member or if you want to recommend a fellow EMG, please contact **Cindy Robertson** at 202-841-5422 or by email at crobertson68@gmail.com.

"Members Only" Business Directory

By **Cindy Robertson**, Extension Master Gardener and Vice President

We are excited to announce a new initiative! We know that many of you have garden-related businesses but are constrained in advertising on our list-serve due to MGNV's policy to keep this email service commercial free.

To solve this issue, we are developing a "Members Only" Business Directory. This directory will stay on our Members Only website page and **will be distributed by the Board to membership by email twice a year. This directory should NOT be distributed to the public** as our mission is volunteer public education.

Our adoption of this Membership Business Directory does not change our policy with respect to keeping our email service commercial free. EMGs who independently advertise through our email service may lose privileges to access their MGNV email account after repeated warnings.

Who can be listed in the directory?

- Only EMGs' (or immediate family members') garden-related businesses. If in doubt, ask me.

Examples:

- Arborist services
- Flower arranging services
- Landscape/other garden services
- Native plant sellers
- Planter boxes, arbors, other garden structures
- Vegetable gardening services

When distributed and updated?

- Two times per year, by email, in early Spring and Fall, after an inquiry to membership to update information.
- The Business Directory will reside on the Members Only page of the MGNV website.

How will information be listed?

- Under relevant categories, listed alphabetically

- A table of contents will allow you to jump immediately to the desired page
- Each EMG business will fill in the same form (attached).
- Note: on attached form, you may request EMGs to email you if they would like to be included on your own commercial mailing list

If you have a business you would like listed in our Business Directory, [use this form and return to me no later than September 30.](#) Thoughts and feedback are always welcome. Thank you!

Photos: **Nancy Smith Brooks**, Extension Master Gardener, The Japanese Garden, Portland, Oregon, 21 August 2024



Better Impact



Did this activity involve the EMG Focus for 2024 on #inVAsives?

By **Scarlett Swan**, *Extension Master Gardener Secretary*

Perhaps, like me, many of you are wondering how to respond to the new and required question asked when recording hours on Better Impact: "**Did this activity involve the EMG Focus for 2024 on #inVAsives?**" I finally emailed the state office to get to the bottom of how to respond.

Here are my questions and Program Director **Ed Olsen's** answer (in bold letters):

- If you are removing invasives as a project, do you say yes?
- If you are generally weeding (at a demo garden) and many of the weeds are invasive, do you say yes?
- If you are talking about invasives when answering a question at a plant clinic or help desk, do you say yes?
- If you mention them in a Public Education class, do you say yes?
- If you are leading a youth program and mention what invasives are and why they are bad, as part of a larger lesson, do you say yes?

The quick answer is yes, all those would be an activity where you would check "Did this activity involve the EMG Focus for 2024 on #inVAsives?"

Photo: **Elaine Mills**, Extension Master Gardener, *Hedera helix* smothering tree



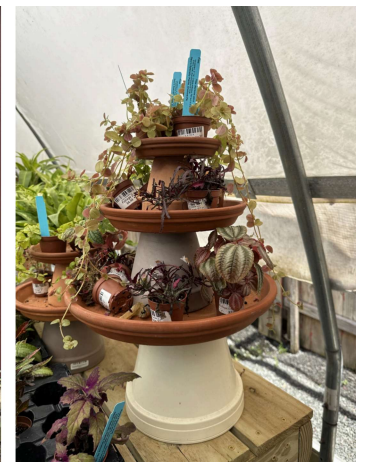
Volunteer Coordinator's Report

By **Leslie Fillmore**, *Extension Master Gardener*

Hi Everyone! It's hard to believe that we will be having our first night of Fall 2024 Volunteer Training shortly after you read this newsletter! Our first night of training is on September 3rd and we'll be holding our classes (alternating between in-person and on Zoom) on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. We have 26 incoming Trainees this year and I'm excited for you to meet them! 😊

In regards to our Fall class of 2023, I'm happy to report we've had several more certifications recently. Please offer your congratulations to **Angie Darrah, Amy Krafft, Kathy Potter, and Erica Spaulding**. Way to go!!!

Photos: **Nancy Smith Brooks**, Extension Master Gardener, Clever Use of Terra Cotta Pots: [Oregon Garden](#), Silverton, Oregon, 22 August 2024; and Garden Center, West Falls Church, Virginia, 13 August 2024



Committee News

Continuing Education Committee

**Youth Education Program! Opportunity
Become a Project Learning Tree-Certified Educator**

The Virginia Cooperative Extension in partnership with the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia and the

Virginia Department of Forestry will sponsor a Project Learning Tree workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28, in the Beech Room of Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington, VA, 22203. **Space is limited to 25 registrants.** Deadline for registration is September 14. *We especially encourage to register any master gardeners, master naturalists, or tree stewards who volunteer in children's activities.*

Register and pay the \$11 fee at <https://project-learning-tree.odoo.com/event/virginia-master-gardeners-of-northern-project-learning-tree-workshop-33/register>

Pack a lunch, dress to be outdoors, and join us for a great day. After this workshop, you will receive a certificate of completion, an Explore Your Environment Guide, and have the confidence and skills to use PLT activities with K-8 students. *Please note: You must attend the 7-hour duration of the workshop to receive certification and the Guide.*

The curriculum provides 50 hands-on, multidisciplinary activities to connect children to nature and increase young people's awareness and knowledge about their environment. It is designed to develop students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Activities are organized by grade band (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8) and align with national standards for science, English language arts, math, and social studies. Virginia SOLs are included. Activities provide step-by-step instructions, academic correlations, time and material requirements, and corresponding student worksheets.

Formal and informal educators in urban, rural, and suburban settings can easily use the activities with their students. All workshop participants receive a copy of the Guide upon completion of certification.

PLT offers many resources and training options to support educators in using and getting the most out of this guide. A comprehensive, free online toolkit and resource hub found at <https://www.plt.org/k8guide> includes downloadable student pages, assessment rubric, an online glossary, recommended reading, and tips and resources.

The workshop facilitators take educators through an interactive journey that explores key features of the guide, provides step-by-step instructions for conducting activities, and offers firsthand tips about teaching outdoors.

For more information, contact:

Nancy M. Davis, nmdaviswriter@aol.com.

Extension Master Gardener

Youth Education Program Committee (YEP!)

Photos: **Nancy Smith Brooks**, Extension Master Gardener, The Oregon Children's Garden, 22 August 2024



Public Education Committee

By **Julie Hanson Swanson**, *Extension Master Gardener and Chair*

Thank you to our August Zoom Class presenters, **Molly Newling** and **Stephanie Halcrow**! If you missed their classes, check them out in the Master Gardener Virtual Classroom: <https://mgnv.org/mg-virtual-classroom/>.

Zoom classes in September will feature [Saving Seeds from Your Urban Garden](#) and [Soil Health](#).



Do you have a gardening topic you are particularly passionate about and would like to share with a large virtual audience? If so, **become a Friday Zoom Class Presenter!** The Public Education Committee hosts Zoom classes open to the public on most Fridays between January and October.

If you would like to present on one of those Fridays or would like more information, please contact Julie Hanson Swanson (julie.hanson.swanson@mgnv.org).



Social Media Committee

By **Leslie Cameron** and **Elena Rodriguez**, *Extension Master Gardeners*

Fall is a great time to assess and take steps to improve the health of our lawns. The Master Gardener Virtual Classroom includes videos on lawn care basics (year-round), plus climate conscious care of lawns, turf grass alternatives, and a recent video featuring local Extension Master Gardeners' efforts to reduce lawn or try an alternative to the traditional turf grass. <https://mgnv.org/mg-virtual-classroom/#Lawns>

Designing a landscape for sustainability starts before the first plant goes in the ground, including where and how to include lawn. Under "Design, Build, and Use for Sustainability," scroll down for resources on creating a more sustainable lawn, rethinking lawn, sustainable lawn care practices, and turf grass alternatives. <https://mgnv.org/resources/sustainable-gardening/#design>

In recent years, we have learned more about how the traditional lawn and lawn care practices can take a toll on the environment. "Threats to Pollinators and What YOU Can Do!" includes information on the history of lawn in North America, the impact on the environment of many traditional care practices, and what we can do to more sustainably care for lawn. <https://mgnv.org/pollinators/threats-to-pollinators-and-what-you-can-do-3/>

Finding what looks like big leafy greens in your environmentally friendly lawn? They might be Plantago species, also called Plantains. Read on for more about these robust plants, which can be a good ground cover and erosion control in hard to grow places. This article also includes practices that gardeners who want to discourage these weeds can use too.

<https://mgnv.org/weeds/plantago/>

Soil health supports healthy growth of all plants. **Kirsten Conrad**, Extension Agent for Arlington and the City of Alexandria, talks about soil pH and general soil health in an online presentation September 27. Register here: <https://mgnv.org/event/soil-health/>

Ever wondered about growing your own meadow? On the website in September, Extension Master Gardener **Susan Wilhelm** reviews "Tiny and Wild: Build a Small-Scale Meadow Anywhere," by Graham Laird Gardner.

Watch the [MGNV Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages in September for more about fall lawn care, sustainable care practices, shrinking the lawn, alternatives to traditional lawn, and more.

Editors' Note: **Joyce Hylton** shared this information about grass seed. Check out this article from The Washington Post: Did this citizen scientist develop the perfect, chemical-free lawn? Jackson Madnick has developed a grass seed mix that can thrive without chemicals and with minimal watering.

<https://wapo.st/4c2jYCn>



Plantago patch in a grass & clover lawn. Photos © Mary Free

What's Going on in the Gardens

Buddie Ford Native Garden

Every Saturday 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Fairlington Small Space Garden

Sundays 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Fairlington Tribute Mini-Garden

Alternate Sundays 8:30 to 10:30 AM

Glencarlyn Library Community Garden

Alternating Sundays & Mondays, 10:00 AM to Noon

Potomac Overlook Vegetable Garden

Wednesdays from 8:30 to 10:30 AM

Quarry Shade Garden

Alternating Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9:00 to 11:00 AM

Simpson Garden

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:00 AM

Sunny Garden

Alternating Mondays & Saturdays, 9:00 to 11:00 AM

Watch emails and check [Better Impact](#) as hours do change with the seasons!

Buddie Ford Nature Center Garden

By **Elena Rodriguez**, *Extension Master Gardener and Webmaster*

I wanted to share two new website features about Buddie Ford:



In the drop-down menu under Demo Gardens/Buddie Ford

Nature Center/
There are two pages -

- [Buddie Ford Updates](#) - I've figured out a way to add the blogposts from the Master Naturalists on this page
- [Stormwater Management](#) - a great new blogpost published today - written by Intern Alex Crawford-Batt.

Organic Vegetable Garden



Saturday, September 21, 1-4 pm
Rain Date - Sunday, September 22, 1-4:00
Potomac Overlook Regional Park

(Park in the lot and walk past the Nature Center to the garden.)

- Explore our beautiful vegetable beds, including our square foot and container gardens.
- Sample fresh peppers, both spicy and mild, such as Anaheim, Shishito, Lunch Box, Mad Hatter and Jalapeño peppers.
- Taste dishes prepared with vegetables and herbs grown in the garden and take home recipes.
- Consult with Extension Master Gardeners on growing and caring for vegetables, flowers and cover crops.
- Learn about companion planting to support pollinators that make the garden grow.
- Enjoy the flora of Potomac Overlook Regional Park, the Nature Center, and hiking trails.



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Small Space Garden

By **Leslie Cameron**, *Extension Master Gardener*

Coordinators: **Angela McNamara**, **Leslie Cameron**, and **Ben Murphy**

The weekend Tropical Storm Debby went through brought around 3 inches of rain, a welcome relief for the Small Space Garden. We were invited to help ourselves to leftover free arborist wood chips at the Fairlington United Methodist Church, so we loaded up 6 bins and spread them around the garden, to allow the chips to help improve the soil over winter. The veg beds are full of cucumbers, tomatoes, edamame, and eggplant, and peppers growing in pots are ripening. Kids who visit on Sunday morning workdays have been harvesting. Shout out to our EMG partners – the Fairlington Plant Clinic out front and the Youth Education Program, who have been offering very popular kid activities in the garden once a month.

Photos by **Ben Murphy**, *Extension Master Gardener*:

- This beautiful swallowtail visited recently.
- Eggplant in the raised veg bed.
- Peppers in containers are ripening (2 photos).
- One of the two raised veg beds, with edamame on the left and cucumbers climbing the trellis on the right.



Simpson Park Demonstration Garden

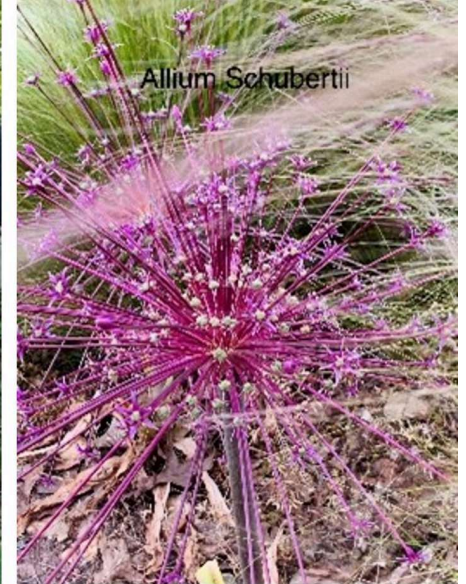
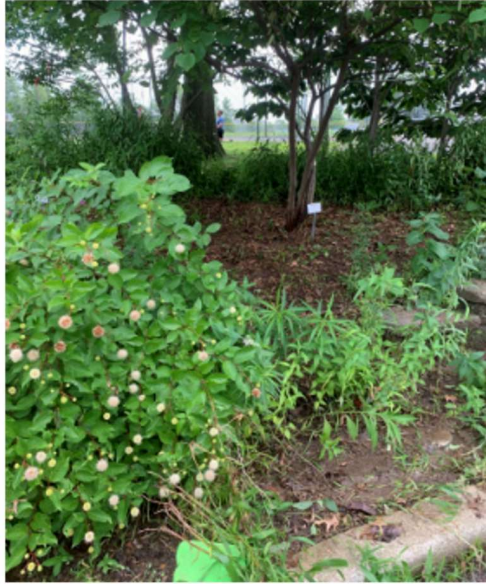
Celebrating Beauty in Alexandria: 2024 Beautification Award Winners Unveiled for Architecture, Community, and Commercial!

After weeks of anticipation, the 2024 Alexandria Beautification Awards winners have finally been revealed for Architecture, Community, and Commercial, and they are amazing! Congratulations to this year's winners including Simpson Park Garden:

Community Winners

This award honors neighborhoods and community groups that go above and beyond to enhance the local environment. Whether it's the thoughtful reimagination and maintenance of parks to planting vibrant gardens, filled with native and local flora, these champions of community spirit make Alexandria shine brighter than ever.

- **Central:** *Simpson Park, 426 East Monroe Avenue* - These gardens are maintained by the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. They heroically inspire and educate visitors about native and ornamental plants and trees, and sustainable gardening practices. There are many native plants throughout the garden along with distinctive trees and perennials. The garden showcases all four seasons and provides a habitat for local wildlife in the park. They even have a scavenger hunt for the public to learn about native plantings!



Announcements

Please see "**Important Dates for MGNV Events and Coordinated Communication Themes,**" on the [Members Only Web Site](#), or the Better Impact Home Page under **Files** on the bottom right. To add MGNV-related events to the calendar, please contact **Scarlett Swan** (scarlett.swan@mgnv.org). The document is available on the Member-Only website

Serve on the MGNV Board!

Interested? Ask **Cindy Robertson** how to volunteer. [See additional information above.](#)

September 21: Pepperfest at Potomac Overlook Park in the Organic Vegetable Garden [See additional information above.](#)

Continuing Education Opportunity: Project Learning Tree

The Virginia Cooperative Extension in partnership with the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia and the Virginia Department of Forestry will sponsor a workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28, in the Beech Room of Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington, VA, 22203. **Space is limited to 25 registrants.** [Deadline for registration is September 14.](#) *We especially encourage to register any master gardeners, master naturalists, or tree stewards who volunteer in children's activities.* [See additional information above.](#) **Nancy M. Davis**

MGNV Membership Meeting

MGNV Fall Membership Meeting, via Zoom, on Tuesday, October 1 from 6:30 - 8 PM.

MGNV FALL FEST on 19 October at Buddie Ford

This year's festival is planned for Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10am to 3pm at the Jerome 'Buddie' Ford Nature Center (5750 Sanger Road). We will have guided walks, a nature/wildlife table, outside vendors (plants,

vintage, upcycled wares), small tree giveaways, MGNV merchandise tables and MGNV demo tables.

Any MG with expertise/interest in fresh food demos (herbs, greens, sauces, etc.), container gardening, houseplants, or something special that you think would be fun should email **Nicole McGrew** (NicoleMcGrew@gmail.com).

We will also need volunteers to generally help with that day. Look for a sign-up in Better Impact, coming soon!

Continuing Education in December: Tree Physiology

Dr. John Seiler of Virginia Tech will reprise his engaging Master Gardener College class about Tree Physiology. Thursday, 5 December at 7 pm by Zoom
More information to come.

MGNV Social

MGNV Winter Membership Meeting, in person, on Saturday, December 7 from 1 - 3 PM, at Lubber Run Community Center.

American Horticultural Society

Amy Krafft and **Nancy Brooks** traveled with the American Horticultural Society to visit gardens in Oregon. One of our fellow travelers was Larry Deaven, who is an expert on Penstemons. [Here is his article about Beardtongue in *The American Gardener*.](#)

Another one of our fellow travelers was Holly Shimizu, former Executive Director of the United States Botanic Garden, who highly recommends these four podcasts about gardening:



A Way to Garden [Weekly radio show & podcast](#) awaytogarden.com

by Margaret Roach, a great writer for the *New York Times*, she is a gardener, and full of useful, interesting information. She is also a birder and loves frogs!

Cultivating Place

[jewellgarden_podcast](#)
cultivatingplace.com

Jennifer Jewell is a writer and has created an excellent podcast focused on natural history and the human impulse to garden.



The Joe Gardener Show with Joe Lamp'l joegardener.com

Joe Lamp'l (Joe gardener) does a series of excellent online courses, podcasts, videos and articles.

[Growing Greener Podcast](#)
thomaschristophergardens.com

Thomas Christopher is a writer and his podcast focuses on making your landscape healthier, more beautiful - and more fun.

Deer Management Project in Arlington County

For information, visit the [Deer Management Project webpage](#) where you can explore resources including the [interactive storymap](#), [project video](#), and sign up for email updates. This webpage will be regularly updated as the project moves forward and will be the best source of information to stay informed.

EcoAction Arlington

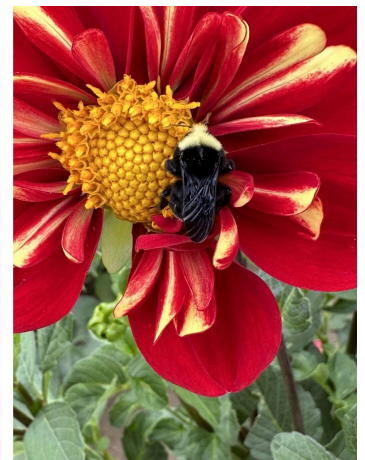
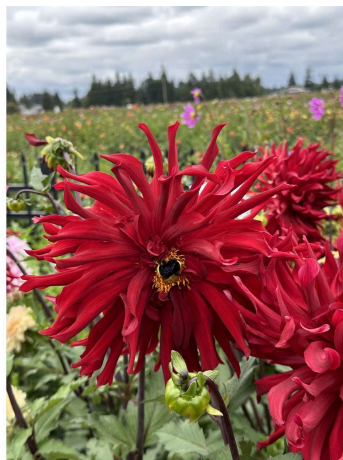
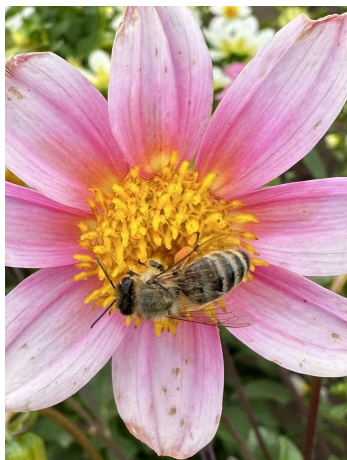
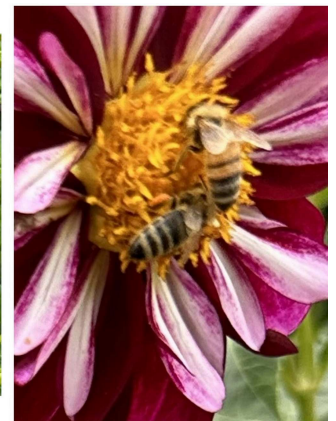
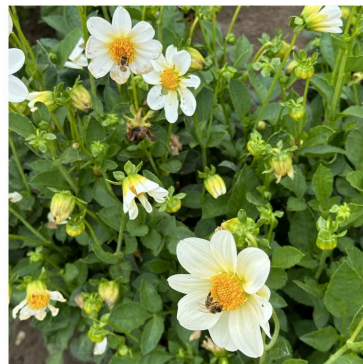
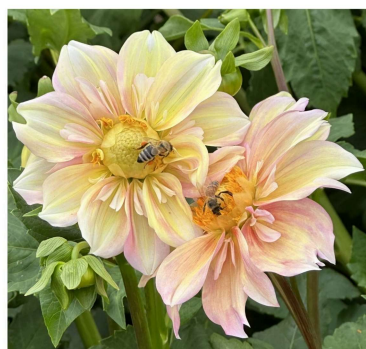
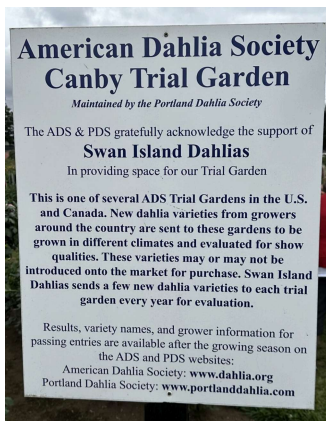
...is proud to announce the launch of the **Restore NoVa Forests** initiative. This project will seek new solutions to address a key concern in our region, the steady loss of tree canopy due to increasingly dense urban and suburban development. In alignment with the goal the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government set in April 2024—a minimum tree canopy coverage of 50 percent across the metropolitan Washington region –our efforts will seek to increase dialogue with a broader segment of stakeholders for our trees, including government, nonprofit, business leaders, professionals, and civic leaders. For more information, please contact Jim Lyon, EcoAction Arlington board member at jameslyon410@gmail.com.

Heat Impacts on Pollinators

By Christa Carignan, UME-HGIC

I read the "heat impacts" section of the last Maryland IPM Alert with interest and wanted to offer this recent article written for us recently by Dr. Anahí Espíndola, "[Heat Waves Affect Pollination Too](#)." (Also in Spanish). She comments on flower abnormalities, reduction of pollen quality, and impacts on pollinators in relation to high heat (and drought) like we've had this season.

Photos: **Nancy Smith Brooks**, Extension Master Gardener, Swan Island Dahlia Festival: Apple Blossom, Bambino, Bee-yond, Bonne Esperance, Dr. Les, and Heartthrob, Canby, Oregon, 22 August 2024



Native vines for hummingbirds and beauty



This month's newsletter article to share. Please use [this link](#) for social media.

Native vines can be terrific additions to your landscape. The most popular one, Coral Honeysuckle, is a hummingbird magnet!

Unlike the non-native invasive vines that we see everywhere killing trees, our native vines seldom hurt them. They co-evolved with our trees and are important members of the ecosystem, attracting numerous and diverse populations of pollinators with their plentiful nectar, feeding many birds from late summer into the winter with their fruit, and hosting the caterpillar larvae of several butterflies and moths.

Their flowers are long blooming, showy, profuse, and often fragrant and remarkably complex. It is their nature to reach for a climbing surface and grow upon it rapidly, which puts their flowering and foliage beauty on full and glorious display.

Native vines grow well in average soil and in dry or moist conditions and are generally easy to cultivate. Some can be a nuisance due to their exuberant growth, but they can all be trained to climb walls, arches, fences, arbors, or trellises, or pruned or sheared for containment. Once trained, they add coverage, privacy, and striking beauty to any space.

Here are five native vines you can plant and enjoy for years to come.

Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Coral Honeysuckle, whose botanical name refers to its evergreen habit, is the hands-down favorite of the native vines for garden spaces and is the official wildflower of Fairfax County. It blooms profusely in the spring then continues to bloom all the way up to November. The hummingbirds in your neighborhood will visit it repeatedly throughout the day.

Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)

Crossvine is semi-evergreen with stunning abundant blooms and claws at the end of its tendrils allowing it to cling to stone, brick, pergolas, and fences without support. Its green leaves turn purple in the fall. Hummingbirds also visit this plant during its May bloom time.

Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*)

Virgin's Bower is fast grower and late bloomer with flowers turning to showy sprays of silky seeds in late summer. It climbs via twisted stems so needs something to wrap itself around to grow such as shrubs, trees, a fence or a trellis. Be careful to distinguish this from Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis ternifolia*), a highly invasive plant that is sold in conventional garden centers.

Yellow Passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*)

Yellow Passionflower has interesting leaves and delicate, fragrant flowers that bloom in mid-summer. It is considered easy to control, train, and contain.

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

While it is primarily prized in the landscape for its brilliant red-burgundy fall foliage, Virginia Creeper is a generous provider of abundant food for hundreds of insects, birds, and other animals and a meaningful addition to the landscape.

Some native vines are a little too exuberant for most people's gardens but are great additions to more naturalized areas. **Purple Passionflower, Maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*)** for example, is a beautiful nuisance when it pops up everywhere. The name Maypop comes from the loud "pop" the fruit makes when crushed. **Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)** is another example. Its flowers are flamboyant and a magnet for hummingbirds, but it is a famously vigorous grower that scrambles over anything it can reach with aerial rootlets that will damage any wood, brick or stone it touches. It is also considered a nuisance.

Finally, there is one notable vine that is native in Virginia but not Northern Virginia is **American Wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*)**. Widely sold in conventional garden centers, it has become the substitute for the highly invasive Asian wisterias which are wreaking havoc on our ecosystem, smothering trees and tearing the limb from limb.

For more information on all of these native vines, you can visit www.plantnovanatives.org/vines or visit our native plant guide.



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Our mailing address is:
3308 South Stafford Street
Arlington, VA 22206

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