

In Season with MGPW

the quarterly of the
Master Gardeners
Prince William

Fall 2022

photo by Jason Alexander

Fall

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another sweet summer is slipping away as we are being greeted by the brisk temperatures of fall mornings. Once again it was a busy growing season for the Prince William County Master Gardeners. Thousands of local residents were reached as you volunteered to answer questions, give presentations, and share your knowledge. As our county continues to grow and become more developed, our teachings and guidance of how to optimize the benefit of each and every square foot of open space becomes more crucial to the health of our local environment and contributes to the biodiversity of our county. Every resident can optimize their own yards – no matter what the size - to support native pollinators and capture carbon dioxide. Thank you all for your determined efforts to maximize the benefit of our shrinking “green space” in Prince William County and informing others on how to help improve our local air and water quality. Thank you for all that you do - and Garden On!!!!

-Janene Cullen, PhD, President, MGPW Board

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FALL PLANT SALE

I want to thank you for donating and attending our Fall Plant Sale. We made \$3,646 on Saturday. Adding in the plants sold the Tuesday following the sale, plus the money from our spring sale, the total amount raised this year stands at \$10,391. This means our trial year of having a porta potty can be funded again next year.

We changed up our procedures this fall as well. We now have numbered holding spots for gathering the plants you wish to purchase. The wheelbarrows and wagons are not loaded until your purchase is completed. Also, no such containers in the sale area makes it easier to move around. I thank too, all those Master Gardeners who came on Thursday and Friday evening before to mark and price all the pots.

I hope all the Master Gardeners who have never donated plants will consider doing so next year. We do sell (*continued p. 7*)



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- Conservation at Home
- Courtesy of Plant NOVA Trees
- Critter Neighbors
- Free Online Classes / Helpdesk

LAWN CARE FOR PWC

Virginia is part of a transition zone between areas where cool and warm season grasses thrive. This can make lawn care in our area challenging. If you're a first time homeowner, new to Prince William County or just looking to better manage your lawn, [Virginia Cooperative Extension can help.](#)

We offer help with interpreting soil test results, information on cultural practices, pest identification and pest control recommendations.

For more assistance with lawn care, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension Environmental Educator at 703-792-4037 or BESTlawns@pwcgov.org.

The [BEST Lawn](#) Program can sample and measure your lawn for you and provide you with a fertilizer schedule that will help promote a healthy lawn.



Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*)
photo by Jason Alexander

LAWN: HOW TO HAVE A BEST LAWN

Virginia Cooperative Extension Prince William Unit

B.E.S.T. Lawns News

Building Environmentally Sustainable Turf

Fall 2022 Edition

pwcva.gov/bestlawns

highlights from *B.E.S.T. Lawns News* by Valerie Huelsman, Environmental Educator, VCE-Prince William

Here are a few highlights from Valerie's *B.E.S.T. Lawns News* newsletter:

◆ **Your Questions on Liming Answered**

Q: Can't I just apply lime every year? A: No— you definitely want to apply lime only when it is indicated with a soil test. If you participate in the BEST Lawns program, we'll write a nutrient plan for you that includes the amount of lime to apply once over the three year length of the plan.

◆ **Which Weeds to Tackle this Fall**

Fall is a great time to address many common weeds using cultural practices, (like cutting your lawn at a higher height), mechanically removing weeds by pulling, or using herbicides responsibly where needed, (following all label instructions).

◆ **How to Tick "Proof" Your Yard (or at least see fewer ticks)**

Maintaining turf in areas of your yard that you frequently spend time in (or using other ground covers that would remain drier like native sedges) is recommended to reduce exposure.

For the full articles, [click here for the *B.E.S.T. Lawns News*](#).

Contact the Horticulture Helpdesk with questions, or sign up for the [BEST Lawns program](#) (mastergardener@pwcgov.org; 703-792-7747)◆◆

PRIZED PLANTS: JAPANESE MAPLE

by Maria Stewart, Master Gardener Volunteer

Color and interest for spring and fall, Japanese maples come in a wide variety, suitable for many landscapes from single specimens in the lawn, to shrub borders, to containers and even bonsai.

Most Japanese maples prefer evenly moist, rich, porous, well-drained soils with a wide range of pH, although a few favor slightly acid soils. Most do well in full sun or part shade.

For more information, and to find a variety that might work in your landscape see: [Clemson Cooperative Extension](#) ◆◆



so many peppers!
photo by Jason Alexander

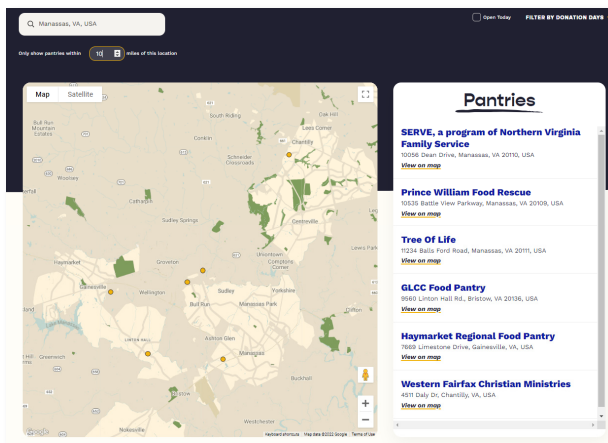
GARDEN TO TABLE: GIVING THANKS, SHARING THE BOUNTY

by Maria Stewart, Master Gardener Volunteer

If you're fortunate enough to have a bumper crop of any kind of produce, and your friends and neighbors duck behind the bushes when they see you coming with armfuls of your abundance to share (again), consider reaching out to a local food bank. Your garden bounty will never go unappreciated!

10.2 percent (13.5 million) of U.S. households were food insecure at some time during 2021 ([USDA Economic Research Service](#)). That's a lot of people. It may not seem like a few pounds of fresh produce could make a difference, but it does. Even small contributions help fill local food pantries, and provide healthy, fresh food to many who would otherwise go without. And let's face it, you have enough zucchini bread in the freezer.

[AmpleHarvest.org](#) is a great way to find a food pantry in need, near you. Click the link, enter your location, and a list of food pantries pops up. Here's a sample of what I got



when I entered Manassas:

Then click on a listed pantry for all the details.

If you're a Master Gardener, or Master Gardener Intern, or Trainee, consider getting involved in [Plant a Row \(PAR\)](#). PAR is

one of the best known national programs to help alleviate food insecurity. It started in Alaska by columnist, Jeff Lowenfels. He asked his readers to *Plant a Row* of vegetables for Bean's Café, an Anchorage establishment providing meals to the hungry. Gardeners answered the call, and the program was soon expanded to the national level. See? Small efforts have big impacts.

For Prince William Master Gardeners to help out, login to *Better Impact*, and sign up next season. There are two collections: *Sundays at the Dale City Farmers Market*, and *Thursdays at the Manassas Farmers Market at the Harris Pavilion*. ♦♦♦

RECIPE

Acorn Squash Soup with Kale

INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon oil, vegetable or canola

1-2 teaspoons garlic, minced

1 medium onion, finely chopped

5 cups kale, washed, thick stems removed, leaves finely chopped

4 cups acorn squash puree (~2 medium squash) or 2 (12 ounce) boxes frozen winter squash puree, thawed

3 cups chicken or vegetable broth

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1/4 teaspoon salt or to taste

1/8 teaspoon pepper or to taste

(optional) 4 strips bacon, cooked* and then cut into 1/2-inch pieces

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Over medium-high heat, add oil into a large saucepan (at least 3 quart size.)
2. Add minced garlic and onion, and cook until softened (about 4 to 5 minutes.)
3. Add kale to the pot and cook until soft (3 to 4 minutes.)
4. Add the squash puree and 3 cups of broth. Bring soup to a boil, more broth may be added to reach desired consistency. Add ground ginger, salt, and pepper to taste.
5. Optional: serve soup topped with cooked and cut bacon.

source: [University of Maine Cooperative Extension](#)

OUT AND ABOUT: THE CLIFTON INSTITUTE



[The Clifton Institute: For Education, Ecology, and the Environment.](#)

by **Jamie Nick, Master Gardener Volunteer**

The Clifton Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission “to inspire a deeper understanding and appreciation of nature, to study the ecology of our region, to restore habitat, and to conserve native biodiversity.” Their 900-acre field station is permanently protected under a conservation easement and provides a gorgeous backdrop to all their programs. I’ve attended a number of their informative programs, and highly recommend a visit to the Clifton Institute in nearby Warrenton Virginia.

Here is a sampling of their activities, and programs:

- Restoration: projects to restore habitat for native biodiversity
- Education: internships, field trips, adult programs, family nature walks and more
- Events: workshops, guided walks and volunteer days
- Research: declining birds, climate change and much more

For more information, contact: info@cliftoninstitute.org ♦♦♦

MASTER GARDENERS PRINCE WILLIAM TEACHING GARDEN

The Teaching Garden is a project of the Master Gardener Volunteers. It began as a garden to grow fresh produce for the Plant a Row for the Hungry project and a place where Master Gardeners could teach homeowners how to grow vegetables. The Teaching Garden displays low maintenance gardening techniques that homeowners can implement in their own gardens. It also features plants that grow well locally.

View the [Teaching Garden Brochure](#) which contains a map of the teaching garden bed layout. View the upcoming events at the Garden [here](#) as well as other horticulture classes offered by the Master Gardeners.

**Sign up for
The Teaching Garden
blog to stay-up-to-date,
and get the latest
In Season with MGPW
newsletter!**

What is the American garden?

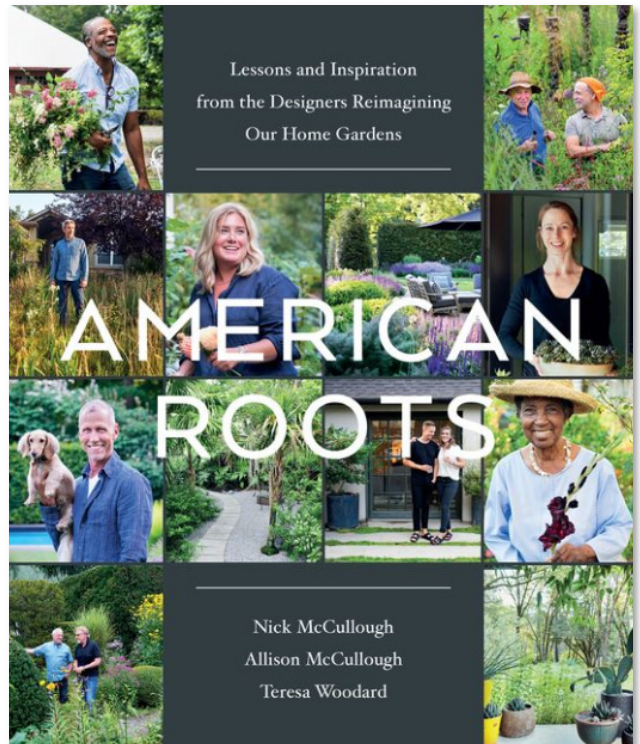
BOOK NOOK: AMERICAN ROOTS

by **Jamie Nick, Master Gardener Volunteer**

American Roots: Lessons and Inspiration from the Designers Reimagining Our Home Gardens by Nick McCullough, Allison McCullough and Teresa Woodard, (Timber Press), is a beautifully illustrated book that sets out to answer: *WHAT defines the American garden?*

One of the professionals featured in the book made a career change after a visit to [Great Dixter House & Gardens](#) in the U.K. (one of my favorite places in the world!!).

Enjoy the read! ♦♦♦





Vaccinium sect. Cyanococcus; photo by Jason Alexander

INSIGHTS: ABSCISSION, WHY LEAVES FALL

by **Abbie & Vincent Panettiere, Master Gardener Volunteers**

Now that fall is showing signs that it is here, we are starting to see the early evidence that plants are beginning to shut down for the cold months of winter to prepare for the next year's growing season.

One item in the fall schedule that always fascinated me was watching the leaves fall from the trees. They did it in such a gentle way, floating down to the ground. It was hard to imagine how they managed to fall, particularly at the end of the autumn color season when so many fell in gentle unison to lie in wait for raking up, or just patiently resting in place and gradually becoming part of the soil to nourish future life.

What I was doing, I discovered, was watching "abscission," a term taken from the Latin *ab* – "away" and *scindere* – "to cut." Abscission, though, refers to more than just the shedding of dead or dying leaves. It is a term that refers – as far as plants are concerned - to the normal shedding of any structure that isn't needed anymore by the plant.

The general term has wider use. It refers also to the shedding of any body part that no longer is needed. In zoology, it might refer to the shedding of a claw, a husk, or part of a tail to avoid capture by a predator - but we needn't go into that here.

In regard, then, to plants: if there is a dearth of one or more nutrients the plant needs, such as nitrogen, or if water is scarce, that can trigger a die-off in parts of the plant such as leaves, and lead to abscission. If a plant is carrying too many fruits to bring all to ripen well, the plant will abscise some of the fruits to help the others come to maturity in better shape.

But in fall, we see abscission most notably when leaves begin to fall from deciduous trees. Due to shortening days and cooling temperatures, the plant cannot make as much chlorophyll as was possible in summer months. The tree responds to this by gradually

Mountain Bluebirds

a Rick Andrews film

Follow a pair of Mountain Bluebirds as they nest and raise a brood of nestlings in the foothills of southern Alberta



"From dawn until dusk, the parents will average about 3 feedings each hour."

[available on YouTube](#)

Insights: Abscission

Sources & For More Information

<https://byjus.com/neet/abscission/>

Aakash

Define Abscission –
Abscission definition/
Abscission meaning

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abscission>

Abcission From
Wikipedia, the free
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<https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/44/2017/10/Oct-13-2017-Why-do-leaves-change-colors-and-drop-off.pdf>

Colorado State University
Extension Colorado
Master Gardener

<https://www.summitdaily.com/news/summit-outside-how-trees-adapt-to-winter/>

Summit Outside: How
trees adapt to winter

<https://www.wellspringkim.com/tag/abscission/>

The Farm in My Yard

Tag Archive | abscission
| This Is Why Fall Color
Happens

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcescence>

Marcescence From
Wikipedia, the free
encyclopedia

stopping production of chlorophyll. As the waning supply is resorbed and sent down to nourish the roots of the tree for the winter, carotenoids, the yellow and orange dyes in the leaves that were there all along, are slower to degrade than chlorophyll. So autumn leaves appear yellow and orange.

Some trees' leaves turn red by producing a new pigment, anthocyanin, in fall. There seems to be several theories as to why this might happen. One thought is that it keeps leaves from being sunburned as the green pigment disappears. Red pigment is said to help the tree or bush take in nutrients when the weather gets cooler, before the leaves drop.

This is the decay of leaves at the end of the season, called senescence, or the condition of growing old, a process with which I am familiar. For plants it refers to decaying by time which prepares the leaves of perennials for abscission. Over time, the yellow and other pigments are finally broken down and the final color, brown, appears.

The cycle begins with the leaf being held to the tree by a small branch called a petiole. At the base of the petiole, where it attaches the leaf to the tree, an abscission zone forms in the spring. The purpose of the abscission zone is to allow nutrients and water to move from the roots of the plant to the leaves, and to transfer food from the leaves to the roots for storage. In fall, the tree forms a layer of corky cells in the abscission zone. The top layer of the zone has weak walls. The bottom layer, which expands in the fall, helps the dying leaf drop off. When the time is right, enzymes may digest the middle layer of the abscission zone, causing the leaf to drop off, or in some cases, if there is much rain, the abscission zone cells will take on a large amount of water which causes the corky layer to burst apart, allowing the leaf to fall.

If there is a sudden frost, early in fall, while the trees are changing from green to yellow and orange, leaves on the trees may freeze and die without going through the process of abscission. This happens mainly in young trees and is called marcescence, the withering and persistence of plant organs that normally are shed. Oak, beech, and hornbeam trees are likely to have marcescent leaves. One often sees oak trees with leaves frozen on them. The leaves may persist through the winter and not break off until something such as a high wind, breaks the petiole and allows the leaf to drop. There are various theories here, too, as to why frozen leaves stay on the tree. One theory is that the frozen leaves protect next spring's buds from drying out in the winter winds, or possibly that the dead leaves provide a late source of mulch when they fall and decay in spring.

When I decided to try to find out why trees so magically color the landscape in the fall, I wondered if it would spoil the emotional beauty of beholding it, as when a card or magic trick is explained, but it isn't the case. I know, in a rudimentary way, how paintings are put together by artists with brushes and paint, and music from orchestras is played on instruments made of purely material objects of metal, wood and such, but unlike the explained card trick, the magic is truly there, and I know that in the fall the symphony of colors will gloriously amaze me once more. ♦♦♦

BOOK NOOK, KIDS CORNER: *LET'S POP, POP, POPCORN!*

by **Jamie Nick, Master Gardener Volunteer**

My book choice for children is one of four books chosen by the American Horticulture Society and the Junior Master Gardener Program as winners of the 2022 Growing Good Kids-Excellence in Children's Literature Awards program: *Let's Pop, Pop, Popcorn!* by Cynthia Schumerth, illustrator Mary Reaves Uhles (Sleeping Bear Press).

Told through exuberant rhyme, a group of children shows the step-by-step process of how America's favorite snack comes about.



“...the trees need a foster parent to care for them.”

MASTER GARDENER HELP WANTED: WHAT CAN WE DO WITH TREE SEEDLINGS

by **Leslie Paulson, Master Gardener Volunteer**

One of our Master Gardeners, Stephanie Johnson, has her own Native Landscape Company, Green Steeze (<https://greensteeze.com/>). She and her crew are digging up native tree seedlings and she needs temporary homes for them until they can find a forever place in someone's landscape.

Just think back to all the times you have found a seedling in your yard and wondered what you could do to save it. Here is your chance to help and make a difference.

All the details have not been worked out. The seedlings will need to be potted and watered while they are on hold in your yard. Right now, the trees need a foster parent to care for them.

If you would like to be a part of the planning and caring for the trees let us know. Send an email to the Help Desk and ask to be put on the Native Seedlings Foster Care Event (mastergardener@pwcva.gov)

Thank you! ♦♦♦

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FALL PLANT SALE

(continued from p. 1)

mostly native plants now, but the traditional perennials we all grew up with are ok. We just do not want invasives, and other plants that just do not sell, such as hostas and liriopae.

I have plenty of large pots for next year but we could use more gallon pots. And while I have your attention, please check before you just drop other things off at the Garden. If they are not needed or wanted by our crew of MGs, they are just thrown away. It may sound severe, but just multiply this occurrence by ten. We just ask you to inquire whether your donation is needed, to reduce waste. Thank you!

For Master Gardener Interns who need hours, there are still a couple Teaching Garden workdays left in the season: Saturday, October 29th, and our last Tuesday workdays is November 15th.

All your work and time this year has been greatly appreciated. I hope to see more MGs join us next year. We need help in many areas such as the Cooks Garden with the vegetables, the compost area to help get it processed, and many beds can use a co-leader as well. Just reach out to me with any questions.

Take care,
Leslie Paulson ♦♦♦



Plant NOVA Natives is the joint marketing campaign of a grand coalition of non-profit, governmental, and private groups, all working to reverse the decline of native plants and wildlife in Northern Virginia.

Our strategy is to encourage residents as well as public and commercial entities to install native plants as the first step toward creating wildlife habitat and functioning ecosystems on their own properties.

All are welcome to participate in this collective action movement!



COURTESY OF PLANT NOVA NATIVES: WELCOMING VISITORS WITH NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING

reprinted with encouragement from [PLANTNOVANATIVES](#), August 25, 2022; thanks to Leslie Paulson, Master Gardener Volunteer

The big signs that welcome visitors to neighborhoods are usually framed by conventional ornamental shrubs, grasses, and annual flowers. Last year, Northern Virginia communities were invited to apply for matching mini-grants to spruce up their entranceways using only Virginia native plants. A condition of the mini-grants was that the projects be designed by a professional landscape designer to require no more long-term maintenance than the typical landscaping crew is accustomed to providing. The original grant money was provided by Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation's Environmental Education and Stewardship Grants Program to the Audubon at Home program in collaboration with Plant NOVA Natives. [Audubon at Home](#) volunteers help residents and organizations strategize about using their properties to create wildlife sanctuaries.

Interest in the grants was high. Thirty-five neighborhoods in Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, and Loudoun counties applied for the six grants, which also required that the communities do outreach to educate their residents about the value of using native plants to beautify their yards and support birds and other wildlife. Conventional landscaping may appeal to the aesthetic tastes of many people, but keeping the look fresh is a challenge and can be expensive. Shrubs that are repeatedly trimmed start to decline, ornamental grasses get overgrown and floppy, and annual flowers have to be replaced three times a year. More importantly, the usual non-native choices for shrubs and grasses in this situation are often invasive, which contributes to adjacent yards and natural areas being overrun by escaped Chinese Privet, Japanese Barberry, Chinese Silvergrass, English Ivy, Periwinkle, Liriope, and other offenders. By contrast, carefully chosen native shrubs can be allowed to reach their natural height without trimming, and tidy-looking native perennials need only be planted once. The result can still satisfy residents' desire for a formal look (and for flowers) while requiring different but no more burdensome maintenance tasks.

As seen on [this web page](#), even soon after installation, the entranceways of the grant recipients were showing the potential of this new approach. As they fill in over the next two years, passersby will be able to appreciate what native plants can do when installed using solid design principles. Landscaping in an institutional setting has its challenges, whether it be a community association, faith community, or other organization where volunteers run the Board and committees. Tempting though it is to install colorful pollinator gardens with a dizzying array of native flowers to attract butterflies, most communities would be hard pressed to find experienced gardeners to dedicate the hour or so per month needed for an average size garden bed, year after year. This degree of expertise becomes unnecessary if only a few distinctive-looking plant species are installed, making weeding a simpler task for any worker. More tips can be found on the [Plant NOVA Natives website](#). As the volunteers at Auburn Village Condominium wrote, "Communities should not be afraid to have native gardens. They can be designed in a way to look like conventional gardens and at the same time be beneficial to critters. We wanted our space to show the community that beautiful spaces can be created with native plants." ♦♦♦

CONSERVATION AT HOME: FALL CLEAN UP? LEAVE THE LEAVES!

by Maria Stewart, Master Gardener Volunteer

Not all butterflies and moths make the trek south each winter like monarch butterflies. In fact, most butterflies and moths stay in our landscapes and gardens, overwintering as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, or adult.

But how do they survive the colder temperatures, and harsher weather of fall and winter? They must knit tiny sweaters and wool socks, and build little houses to stay warm and dry, right? No. Of course not. Although cute to imagine a butterfly cozied up to a teeny tiny fireplace sipping hot cocoa and warming its teeny tiny butterfly toesies, that's not what's happening.

What is happening? Raking, mowing, blowing, bagging, and burning of vital tiny critter winter homes. You know, tidying up!

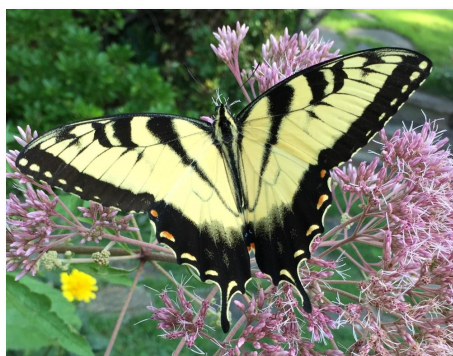


Eastern Tailed-Blue (*Cupido comyntas*)

“A garden, yard, or landscape layered with leaves, however, is the perfect place for butterflies....”

Why do we do it? No one is 100% sure. Maybe it has something to do with our mothers telling us to “clean up your room!” A room layered with discarded clothes, shoes, and childhood debris is unsightly (and sometimes smelly), and it does not provide vital habitat—at least, not for anything desirable. A garden, yard, or landscape layered with leaves, however, is the perfect place for butterflies, moths, beetles, spiders, bumblebees, and more, to stay safe and ride out the winter.

Luna moth and swallowtail butterfly cocoons and chrysalises resemble actual dried leaves, so they can blend in with the leaf litter, and stay protected until spring. Red-banded hairstreaks lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, then rely on those same leaves as their first food source in the spring.



Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*)

Fall leaves provide free mulch and help support healthy soil while also suppressing weeds. If you must clear the lawn, try to capture as many whole leaves as possible. Shredded leaves are better than bagging, but they don't provide the needed cover for the critters.

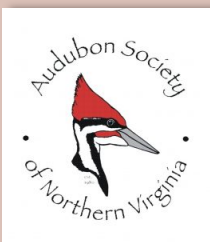
Why not embrace leaving the leaves? It's the perfect excuse to sit back with a hot cocoa, warm your toesies, and enjoy the season!

for more information, visit the [Xerces Society](#) ♦♦♦



Luna moth (*Actias luna*)

photos by Jason Alexander



Prince William has a core group of trained Master Gardeners in the [Audubon at Home program](#) who have certified over 100 homes. To make more land in Prince William County wildlife-friendly, start to certify your property today! If you are ready to make your backyard or community space more environmentally friendly, give us a call at 703-792-7747 or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org.

PLANT NOVA TREES: PLANT NOVA TREES - ONE YEAR ON

reprinted with encouragement from [PLANTNOVATREES](#), September 1, 2022; thanks to Leslie Paulson, Master Gardener Volunteer

September marks the first anniversary of the launch of Plant NOVA Trees, a regionwide effort by over a hundred local organizations and thousands of individuals to promote native trees and shrubs in Northern Virginia. There is no regional tree planting agency that can do the job for us. Rather, it is up to each individual to look around to see how they can contribute, at home, at work, or on common land. Plant NOVA Trees connects people to the resources they need to do that.



Plant NOVA Trees is a focused drive by the Plant NOVA Natives campaign to increase the native tree canopy in Northern Virginia. The drive launched in September 2021 and continues through the fall of 2026.

[learn more](#)

There are many ways to participate. The simplest is to identify every appropriate site and plant young trees or shrubs there now, preferably canopy trees if there is room. They may not look like much the first couple years, but soon they will grow and provide shade and cooling for humans as well as shelter and food for our birds and butterflies. Information on how to choose and plant a native tree or shrub is available on the [Plant NOVA Trees website](#). Fifty volunteers have visited local garden centers to hang thousands of tags on the native trees, making them easy to identify. (The same volunteers have been putting red stickers on all the native plants in those garden centers for several years.)

Each of our local jurisdictions and park services has tree planting plans for public lands. For example, the Prince William Soil and Conservation District has been working with 3rd and 4th graders to plant trees on school grounds. Kudos go especially to Purcellville, which planted 118,100 trees last year on former farmland that is owned by the town.

Members of local communities have also gotten together to plant trees in their common areas and to help residents plant on their own properties. So far, residents have self-reported 7850 trees and shrubs on the Plant NOVA Trees website form. The Virginia Department of Forestry is collecting these figures as it works to meet its goal of 600,000 planted in Northern Virginia by 2025. This number is intended to help our region meet its obligation to protect the Chesapeake Bay, since runoff from roofs, roads and empty lawns is causing damage downstream, and trees are nature's tool for capturing water. Those who appreciate our waterways should give careful thought to how they can contain stormwater on their own properties before it rushes off to erode our streams and dump sediment and pollutants into the Bay.

Despite all these efforts, Northern Virginia is gradually losing tree canopy. Multiple factors contribute to tree death. Some are hard to change on a local level, such as the stress on trees from climate change. Others are absolutely within our control, such as poor planting and mulching practices or the sacrifice of trees for more roads, buildings, and park amenities. Each native tree lost is one less home for birds and other wildlife as our local ecosystem suffers its death from a thousand cuts.

Invasive vines (as opposed to the beneficial native vines) pose another important threat to trees, and this has become one of the foci of the Plant NOVA Trees campaign. Volunteers for the new Tree Rescuers program spot trees that are at risk from English Ivy, Asian Wisteria, or other invasive non-native vines and drop off literature with the owners to alert them to the easily-mitigated problem. While they are at it, the volunteers count the trees at risk so we can get a more precise handle on where resources should be concentrated. So far, over two hundred volunteers have alerted 749 residents to 3491 trees at risk in 4.2 square miles of residential properties. In addition, they have counted almost 22,000 trees at risk in 3.3 square miles of non-residential areas. The data collection is too preliminary to make an accurate extrapolation, but it would appear that the total number of trees in need of rescue in Northern Virginia's 1,300 square miles may be in the millions.

There are numerous opportunities around Northern Virginia to help control these invasive vines by cutting them near the ground. Over 3500 trees have been reported as saved so far. Besides saving the trees on their own properties, volunteers can organize the work on common land within their communities or join the invasives management programs of the various park services, listed on the Plant NOVA Trees ["Rescuing Trees" page](#). Residents and communities can obtain a permit to clip the vines on VDOT property. In general, though, the resources to control invasives on government-owned land and easements will need to come from the governments themselves (and ultimately from the taxpayers.) It is also critical that everyone stop planting invasive plants to begin with, not only the invasive vines but all the other [invasive non-native landscaping plants](#) such as Bradford Pears and Burning Bush that escape from our properties into natural areas.

Businesses have been helping with the regional tree campaign in several ways. Local garden centers are promoting native trees and shrubs in honor of [Celebrate Native Trees Week](#) (Sept 26-Oct 2). Landscaping companies are increasingly choosing native species, and a few have started to offer invasive plant removal services. Any company could educate its employees and customers and provide financial support to neighborhoods that need help with their open spaces. Those businesses that control property can plant and preserve native trees there, which in some places may mean tearing up concrete to make room.

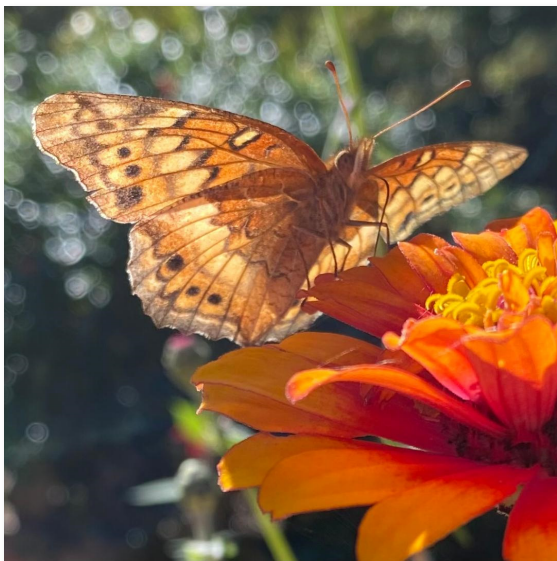
So what can you do to support the native tree campaign? Plant NOVA Trees is essentially an educational organization. The success of this initiative depends on the individual efforts of residents across the region. There is no shortage of ideas on how to get involved, whether where you live or work or on a wider scale. Find these ideas on the [Plant NOVA Trees website](#), and help spread the word to your friends and neighbors. ♦♦♦

CRITTER NEIGHBORS:
**VARIEGATED FRITILLARY (*EUPTOIETA*
CLAUDIA)**

**by Jason Alexander, Master
Gardener Volunteer**

This common Virginia native butterfly can be seen from spring to late fall. It is found in South America, throughout most of the continental United States, and into parts of Canada.

This unassuming orange butterfly produces several broods each year laying single eggs on leaves and stems, including may apple, violets, and stonecrop. As a caterpillar, it creates a stunning golden spiked chrysalis for its metamorphosis. As an adult, it feeds on a variety of plants including milkweeds, dogbane, and red clover. ◇◇◇



photos by Jason Alexander

Source:

[Butterflies and Moths of North America](#)

What is a Master Gardener?

Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners (VCE-MG) are trained volunteer educators who provide the public with environmental information that draws on the horticultural research and experience of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Virginia State University.

Join Us!

[click here to learn more](#)



Master Gardener Volunteer Cynthia Long answering questions about Charlie the snake at the Manassas Farmers Market

photo by Jason Alexander

HORTICULTURE CLASS OF PARTICULAR NOTE: ROSS EAGLES, IRISES: HYBRIDIZING THE GRAND PERENNIAL



The MGPW Education Committee

Announce a free program:

Irises: Hybridizing the Grand Perennial



by

Ross Eagles, MG

An active Master Gardener volunteer, Ross has run his own home-based nursery since 2015 growing and hybridizing irises.

**Saturday, November 12, 2022
10 am to 12 Noon**

Sudley North Government Building
Jean McCoy Conference Room
7987 Ashton Avenue
Manassas, VA 20109

Come discover the why and how of hybridizing irises and learn about general iris care.

Register at: https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4UXzBXDnodoJcW2



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Christina Hastings, Virginia Cooperative Extension – Prince William at 703-792-8285/TDD (800) 828-1120 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

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Master Gardeners Prince William

Master Gardeners of Prince William (MGPW) is the supportive organization for active Master Gardener Volunteers in Prince William County, Manassas City and Manassas Park. There are approximately 200 active volunteer environmental educators serving in various capacities.

Volunteers and volunteerism are central to the MGPW mission as we strive to make our community a more sustainable, healthy and beautiful place to live and to educate residents about the many benefits of gardening, including the opportunity to grow nutritious, healthy food, environmentally friendly landscapes, all with the ultimate goal of protecting water quality in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

FREE ONLINE CLASSES / HELPDESK

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) hosts classes via zoom Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. to Noon. For a schedule of classes, and to register, click here: [Prince William County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Classes](#).

If you would like to receive alert notifications about our programs and classes go to: www.pwcgov.org/pwcan

- Select "Stay Informed" PWC Alerts icon
- Sign up for **PWC Alerts**.
- Create your profile
- To receive notifications on our classes select "**Community Information**"

QUESTIONS? VCE Staff and Master Gardener Volunteers are working to answer your lawn and garden questions. Please contact the **Horticulture Helpdesk** by emailing mastergardener@pwcgov.org or call 703-792-7747.

Help Support Master Gardeners Prince William while you shop with (click the icons to learn more):



Master Gardeners Prince William

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The Editors,

Jason Alexander & Maria Stewart, Master Gardener Volunteers