

## MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE - 2007

This year Master Gardener College will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary from June 20-24 at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg. A lot has changed since the earliest days of College and you can be the beneficiary of the many improvements including the academic experience, the dormitory facilities, and even the meals. The responsibility for putting on the College each year rests with Virginia Cooperative Extension with program support from the state master gardener association (VMGA). You will have an opportunity to participate in academic subjects, laboratories, workshops, field trips, and have time for fun with serious-minded gardeners from across the Commonwealth. You will make new friends. You will have plenty of time to see how other master gardeners go about their activities during breaks, meal times, and in the evening. The VMGA web site, [www.vmganet.org](http://www.vmganet.org) will provide all of the pertinent information concerning registration for classes, on campus air conditioned dormitory, and a meal ticket for all meals while attending College. The meals are varied, tasty, plentiful, and wholesome. If you desire other accommodations, Virginia Tech has an on campus hotel and Blacksburg has many big chain motels that are close to the College. You are permitted to take your meals in the College dining hall and the cost for any meal is very reasonable

In the simplest terms Master Gardener College can be stated as learn, meet people, and have fun. These three points on the positive experience of College are noted below. It is important to continue our College at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg for the obvious reason that professors, research facilities, laboratories, etc. are all located on the Blacksburg campus; therefore, we are able to take advantage of this single location.

### **Learn** (opportunity for self development)

1. Listen to excellent presentations at general sessions.
2. Find out about current horticultural research.
3. Learn about current horticultural trends.
4. Become aware of issues of importance to master gardeners.
5. Learn about unfamiliar topics.
6. Attend and perform hands-on laboratory techniques.
7. Reinforce information about familiar topics.
8. Learn vicariously about some far away place via a gardening paradise travelogue.

### **Meet People** (networking)

1. Hear about effectiveness of new master gardener programs/projects from others.
2. Interact with master gardeners from other parts of the Commonwealth.
3. Renew old acquaintances and start new friendships.
4. Promote information exchange.
5. Help others who are new to the college experience (mentoring?).

### **Have Fun** (the other side of academia)

1. Look at and enjoy the always new features and plantings in the Hahn Horticultural Gardens.

2. Experience comfortable and safe surroundings on campus, downtown (walking distance from College), and other nearby locations.
3. Participate in a silent auction for a worthy cause.
4. Enjoy a last on campus opportunity for fellowship and networking at the annual picnic and plant swap.
5. Opportunity for other do-it-yourself “whatevers.”

Prepared by  
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