

June, 2025

**Meetings at 7 pm at West Main Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
First Monday of the month
6:30 pm Socialize and enjoy refreshments**

Better Impact – How it Can Improve Your Life (really!)

1. Logging in to record volunteer hours on a regular basis addresses your own control issues and those of our volunteer coordinator, Debra Bailey.
2. DMGA News with information and helpful links are easily found on the bottom of the Home page.
3. The “Files” section has our calendars, newsletters, and other DMGA information that is hard to find anywhere else; link is on the lower right side of the Home page.

[MyImpactPage - Home](#)

News

DMGA News

To Sign Up for Volunteer and Training activities: <http://www.thevolunteerspace.com/events.cfm?CID=244>

The DMGA Events Calendar for educational and volunteer activities and the EMG Training Lab Schedule are available under "Files".

Helpful Hint: The Better Impact App lists our volunteer activities by Category. When searching for an activity to record hours, start by entering the first few letters of the category: Education, Admin, Horticultural.

DMGA website: <https://www.danvillemastergardeners.org/>

Danville Extension Master Gardener Training

- [2025 EMG Training Lab Calendar \(update 5.22.25\)](#)

EMG Documents

- [Links to download the VCE Gardener Handbook \(2023 version\)](#)

VMN Documents

- [VMN Volunteer Policy Handbook \(2025\)](#)

[See All Files](#)

Welcome to the Volunteer Space!

The Volunteer Space is our new online volunteer signup site. You just need the link below to get to all of the signup sheets.

[Link to sign up:](#)

<http://www.thevolunteerspace.com/events.cfm?CID=244>

Then click on the event you want to sign up for. Once you pull up an event, enter your name and email address and then click on the event you want to sign up for (green box).

COMMUNITY MARKET MAY JUNE 2025

Danville Master Gardeners
Location: Danville Community Market
Date: May to June 2025
Contact: [Debra Bailey](#)

Assist with DMGA information table at the Danville Community Market on Saturday mornings, May-October, 7:15 a.m. - 12 noon.
Questions: contact Debra Bailey (336) 340-1981.

Each person must complete a separate form. (* Indicated Required Information)

	First Name	Last Name	Email
Person Volunteering *			

Form Instructions (Show)

Activities	May 24	May 31	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Volunteer at MG Table	☐ (3)	☐ (2) Vic Reece	☐ (3)	☐ (2) Kelly Adcock	☐ (2) Vic Reece	☐ (3)
OOPS! Click to De-Select Session	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Submit Sign-Up Sheet

Event Sign-Up Sheets
Danville Master Gardeners

- ☒ Community Market August 2025
- ☒ Community Market July 2025
- ☒ Community Market May June 2025
- ☒ Community Market October 2025
- ☒ Community Market September 2025
- ☒ Plant Pathology Training Lab
- ☒ Vegetables Training Lab

We will still have paper signup sheets at the monthly meetings, but this system will allow you sign up for events in between meetings or even remove yourself if something comes up and you can't make it. You should receive an email when you submit the signup sheet. The email includes a link to cancel your sign-up if needed.

We hope that this system adds some flexibility to volunteer signups and allows you to participate in events even if you miss the monthly meetings! Contact Debra Bailey or Elizabeth Tomlin if you have questions or problems with the signup sheet.



Strong work by Master Gardeners Debra Bailey, Ann Sylves and Billie Holley at the Danville Community Market on a recent Saturday morning, answering questions and selling plants. Additional volunteers are always needed and welcome to join the fun here. Sign up on Volunteer Space.

American Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

Spring is such a wonderful, exciting time. Most gardeners have begun to see the fruit of their labors, and are greatly moved to plant more! Can we get enough? This is a hard question, as most cannot. In the garden, there is always a “little spot” or “space” to plant another and a scrub can play an important part.

The name, American Beautyberry comes from the Greek word callos, for beauty, and carpos, for fruit. It is also known as French Mulberry. The American Beautyberry can have many uses, including a foundation for a garden. They can be a middle ground in front of trees and then flowers placed below, or in front. If beginning a new garden at this time and interested in a “showy scrub” in the fall, this would be a great idea to plant this fall and enjoy your labor next fall. Their branches provide shelter for small birds and animals as well as food for over 40 varieties of songbirds.

The American Beautyberry is approximately 4-5 feet high, and 3-4 feet wide, and grows in sun to partial shade. They have pink blooms in the summer, followed by dark pink shiny -colored berries that decorate the entire branch in the fall. The leaves become yellow and the berries last around six weeks or until eaten by songbirds and other animals. The winter can be harsh on the scrub and they may experience some loss of limbs, which can be helped by giving them approximately 5 inches of mulch for protection. They flower on the current year’s growth, so in order to have profuse blooms cut the limbs back in late winter/early spring to approximately 6 inches. There are few diseases or problems with the scrub, leaf spot and black fungus being a couple of the few. Not planting in the heavy shade will help alleviate these problems.

The uses of the American Beautyberry are many in the garden. As a native plant, its berries are larger than the non-native. Planting in groups make a stunning display in the fall and draws many birds and small animals, such as foxes, opossums and squirrels that may come to strip the berries after the leaves fall. Therefore, animals are helped with an important food source with the scrub, and are sheltered during the cold winter. Their beauty is wonderful to enjoy with first their blooms, then berries and finally the yellow leaf display. Native plants play such an important part in our ecosystem and it is important to keep them there. Invasive non-natives are overtaking a very important function that may be very difficult to overcome. Scrubs, such as the American Beautyberry are important and hopefully will continue to be so.

<https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/virginia-regional-native-plant-campaigns-guides>

https://grownative.org/native_plants/american-beautyberry/

<https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/callicarpa-beautyberry/>

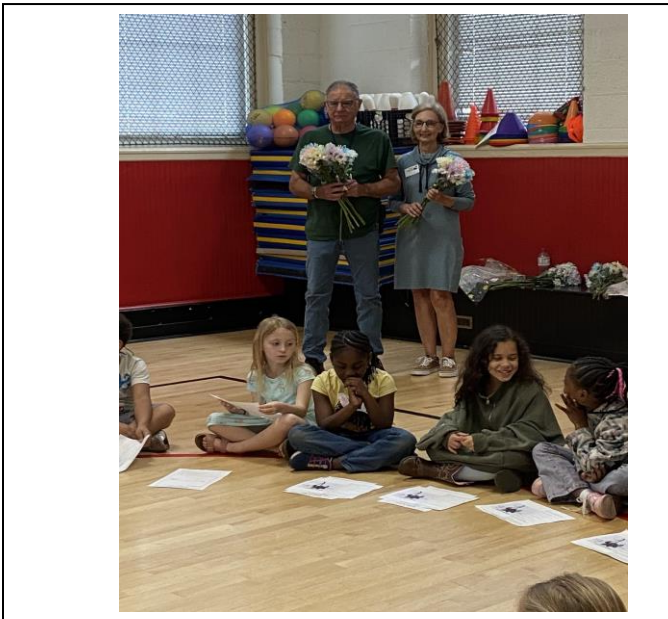
<https://plants.usda.gov/>

Article and photo below were submitted by Mitzi Marlowe



American Beautyberry provides food source for birds and other wildlife.

Below, Master Gardeners Billie Hollie and Bonnie Hill help the 4H and the Halifax Extension Office demonstrate the parts of flowers using real flowers.



2025 Extension Master Gardener Training Class

Welcome to the nine trainees in our 2025 Extension Master Gardener training class! Trainees are actively working on their course work and have attended in-person labs for Orientation, Plant Propagation/Soil Blocks/Indoor Plants, Water Quality, and Herbaceous Plants. The DMGA Training Committee worked together successfully to set up the training criteria, brainstorm lab plans, conduct interviews and mentor trainees. A special thanks to DMGA members who have led instruction for the labs and are volunteering to serve as monitors.

2024 Interns and DMGA members are welcome to attend the remaining instruction labs:

June 7	10:30 am – 1:00 pm	Plant Pathology – West Main Baptist Church
June 28	9:30 am – 12 noon	Vegetable Gardening – Jessica Smith Farm
July 12	9:30 am – 12 noon	Entomology/IPM/Soil Samples – E. Tomlin home
August 2	9:30 am – 12 noon	Soils – Elizabeth Tomlin home
August 11	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Trees and Woody Plants – W.M. Baptist Church

Michelle Andres has a strong interest in all gardening areas, especially vegetables and keeping our neighborhood woodlands healthy. She is a seasoned volunteer for community events and with animal shelters.

Donovan Carmichael moved to Danville early in 2024 following eight years of active duty-Marine service. He wants to expand his gardening knowledge and assist with community and adaptive gardens, with special interest in grafting, propagating, and hydroponics.

Olivia Lineberger also recently moved to Danville, has lived in NC and Florida, and has a strong gardening background from her father and other family. “I love gardening!”

Brandy Marlowe is especially interested in native plants, supporting wildlife, and organic gardening. She successfully completed the EMG class about 10 years ago but is now re-taking with more time to complete volunteer hours.

Nene McWilliams moved to Danville in 2023 from California. With the larger yard space available here, her primary interest is in learning the best ways to grow food for her family and to share the knowledge gained with others.

Ruth Meadors has been a life-long area resident who loves working outside in the soil with a special interest in flowering plants, including orchids and tropical plants. She also makes wonderful lasagna which we thoroughly enjoyed at our last two DMGA Christmas dinners.

Nancy Riddell has been gardening her entire life! A retired educator, she wants to continue to increase her knowledge with particular interest in landscaping with perennials for year-round color and bloom.

Lee Anne Sheridan wants to learn all she can about gardening, improve her own garden and help others, with special interest in permaculture and creating a regenerative landscape. She is a retired choral music teacher and an active volunteer with area organizations.

Allison Solway moved to Danville from Illinois in July 2024 and is definitely not a fan of our red clay soil! She had huge gardens before moving and is looking forward to learning the best ways to grow vegetables, perennials, and house plants.

Article and photos on next two pages were submitted by Bonnie Hill.

Donovan, Nene, Ruth, and Michelle learn about testing Water Quality from Sonya Wolen of the Dan River Basin Association.



Nancy, Michelle, Allison, Nene and Ruth learn propagation techniques.



Jessica Driver of DRBA/Iszak Walton League instructs Ruth and Michelle on how to capture insects with a seine in Angler's Park.



Allison – make your own soil block!

Here, you can do it,

Caddis, midges, stone flies, net spinners...who knew? Identify and count the critters!



Nancy, Brandy, Nene, Michelle, Ruth and Allison concentrate on Woody Stem propagation.





Master Gardeners Barry, Dana, Vic & Debra join DGM trainees Allison, Olivia & Lee Anne, along with Laverne Fuller and Karen Coughlin of SVMG, and trainees Nancy, Brandy and Michelle at the May 17 Training lab at the Southern VA Botanical Garden. Bonnie Hill not pictured.



Watch out plants – Pat knows how to divide and conquer!!



Gibson Greenhouse master gardeners played a part of the Virginia Garden Tour earlier this year, assisting students to grow zinnias and purple hearts for the Grove Street cemetery.

Orientation attendees - Nancy, Brandy, Michelle, Donovan, Olivia and Nene.



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DANVILLE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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