

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

A Publication of the Colonial Williamsburg Landscape Department



ArbNet names Colonial Williamsburg a Level II Arboretum

Our arboretum advanced to level II last month after meeting the following enhanced levels of arboretum standards:

- Increasing our arboretum collection with 100 more trees and woody shrubs. Our tree stewards have already identified these additions with plant labels generously donated by BrightView Landscape Services, Inc.
- Creating an Arboretum collections policy that describes the professional management of the plants in the arboretum collection, in accordance with standards developed in the public garden and museum fields.
- Assigning the arborists job responsibilities that specifically include management of the arboretum.
- Enhancing educational and public programming beyond the base level required in Level I accreditation. This fall we will offer a new tree tour that focuses on the Arboretum collection and tree care.



Landscape Manager **Jon Lak**, Arborist **Charles Gardner**



Tree Steward Volunteers: **Stacy DeMeo, Rick Brown, Susan Miller, Sharon Marcial, Carol Black** (not shown: Ann Hobson)

The ArbNet arboretum accreditation program is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. The program offers four levels of accreditation.

Tree Risk Assessment

Managing an urban forest the size of Colonial Williamsburg's is no easy task. With winter storms, hurricanes, pest problems, and numerous trees reaching the end of their natural life cycle, our trees must be constantly monitored for risk and preservation plans implemented. Charles Gardener, our lead arborist, is certified to monitor and assess the health and overall structure of the trees on Colonial Williamsburg properties. Charles' certification, known as Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ), was obtained through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). This certification enables Charles to assess the condition of a tree from its crown to its roots for an overall risk rating. With conservation in the forefront of our mission, TRAQ is an important tool for managing our urban forest.



**Arborist, Charles Gardner,
Arborist Apprentice, Matt Childs**

Planting Season 2019



Nurseryman, Scott Hemler



**Horticulture Staff (L—R)
Lance Street, Johnnie Stafford,
Melody Mosbaugher**

About 13,000 summer annual flowers were grown for use in the gardens throughout the Historic Area. About 1/3 of the flowers were grown in-house at our production nursery along with over 600 herb and 2500 vegetable plants.

Of the **24 iconic gardens** in the Historic Area, eight contain kitchen gardens and 12 have herb plots. All are ably maintained by CW Horticulturists along with help from our volunteers, many of whom are Master Gardeners or members of The Herb Society of America.



Garden Intern, Elizabeth Heck