

GEDDY GARDEN NEWS

ISSUE #60

MARCH 1999

**March will search ye, April try ye,
May will tell, whether live or die ye,**

Old English folksaying

Spring has arrived and I am ready for it. Springtime offers so many qualities, freshness, newness, simplicity, optimism and beauty. Daffodils are appearing around us and on the breezy days they stubbornly bob about defiantly braving the winds.

I've planted my early peas. St. Patrick's Day was a fine day for planting them. It must have been the luck of the Irish! I've also put some purple broccoli and Kohl robi plants in the garden. I sowed some arugla seeds as well.

This past month I concentrated on archeology. At the Williamsburg program, The Town Before the Town: Exploring Williamsburg's 17th Roots, we explored the role of archeology in discovering what we need to know about Williamsburg.

I found it all fascinating but I was especially interested in the areas that were related to gardening such as the demonstration of paleobotany analytical techniques. At the visit to the phytolith lab I had the opportunity to view a phytolith under the microscope. I learned that fruit trees do not produce phytoliths and that grasses produce the most.

At a seminar at Gunston Hall, archeology was featured. The focus of the seminar was on the changes in the Chesapeake landscape development. Historical archeology is taking place today and is important in helping us understand and appreciate that the landscape, like gardens make up the cultural aspects of other people.

I had the opportunity to share what I learned at these programs with school students via the Electronic Field trip. Discovering the Past through archeology was the theme for a Colonial Williamsburg electronic field trip which went out to schools all over the nation. The students telephoned their questions and along with 17 other coworkers I answered them. All that recent training certainly came in handy.

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As I prepared my soil in the Geddy garden this week I found some shards of blue and white ceramics which I added to my collection of other artifacts from my garden. I like to do a little exploring with archeology myself. Now I'm off to the garden with a lot of work to do.

"When all is said and done is there any more wonderful sight, any moment when man's reason is nearer to some sort of contact with the nature of the world than the sowing of seed, the planting of cuttings, the transplanting of shrubs or the grafting of slips?"

St. Augustine

Janet Guthrie

