

Local Master Gardeners lend their expertise and time  
to the Richard Bland College Water Garden



College President Dr. James McNeer is proud to announce that Richard Bland College has just entered into an exciting partnership with the Prince George Master Gardeners Association. Volunteers from PGMGA will be collaborating with RBC Landscape Supervisor Bill Wamsley and his staff to make improvements to the Water Garden.



Standing: Charlotte West, Alicia Capps, Mary Lyons, James McNeer, Earlene Hogg, Ethan Capps, Bill Wamsley and Vernell Wright

Seated: Hannah Capps, Alexandra Wunderly and Mel West

The Water Garden, conceived of by past president Dr. Clarence Maze and modeled after Monet's water garden in Giverny, France, is considered to be a significant

landmark on the RBC campus. This collaboration involves not only beautification of the garden but also education in that the local Master Gardeners plan to identify and label the many trees, plants and flowers in the Water Garden.



Master Gardener intern Alicia Capps with her children Hannah (11) and Ethan (13)

PGMGA is comprised of thirty-three Master Gardeners and seventeen interns. Each new class of interns is required to perform fifty hours of intern service, forty of which must be devoted to public education. Since the PG Master Gardeners plan to create an informative print brochure identifying plant life in the garden, working in the RBC Water Garden is an ideal project for this volunteer association. Once completed, the educational brochure will be available to all visitors of this public demonstration garden.



Master Gardeners Charlotte West and Alexandra Wunderly

As current president of PGMGA, part-time RBC groundskeeper Mary Lyons was able to spearhead this new partnership along with Project Coordinator Earlene Hogg. Lyons functions as liaison between the College and the local gardening association and acts as on-site Master Gardener. A neighbor of the College, Hogg is delighted to bring her "fellowship of gardeners" to Richard Bland.



Alexandra Wunderly with Earlene Hogg

Hogg adds, "Since a public garden is always in need of tending and refreshing, this collaboration between the Prince George Master Gardeners and the College should continue to flourish for years to come."



Earlene Hogg, Mary Lyons and Dr. McNeer

Wamsley, the College's Landscape Supervisor, is equally thrilled. "It's an absolute pleasure to share the garden with such dedicated volunteers. The garden has always been open to the community, but now it feels like a true community garden," Wamsley said. McNeer and Wamsley are both honored to have the RBC Water Garden serve as a PGMGA demonstration garden.



Vernell Wright with Bill Wamsley

The RBC Water Garden is open to visitors throughout the year. General inquiries about PGMGA should be directed to Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent Glenn Chappell at [gfcii@vt.edu](mailto:gfcii@vt.edu).