

# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Free Composting Workshop, Bins to Be Offered at Lake Monticello**

### **Palmyra, VA – October 2008 -**

The Fluvanna Master Gardeners along with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) will offer a free composting workshop on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at 10 AM at the Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire and Rescue building, 10 Slice Road, Palmyra, Virginia, 22963. The TJPDC sponsors will give away five compost bins, with an additional 25 available at \$20 each. Light refreshments will be served.

The Fluvanna Master Gardeners have been promoting composting in their demonstration gardens at Haden House and the Fluvanna Community Garden at Pleasant Grove as well as their own gardens and farms throughout the county. On Saturday, November 22, 2008 they will share their expertise in a workshop format.

The workshop will feature demonstration and instruction for small to large lot home composting including the natural recycling of grass and worm composting. Participants will learn about sheet and hole composting, windrow, heap or pile composting, composting-in-place or no-till composting, and open and covered bin composting. Instruction will emphasize convenience and simplicity.

“We’re excited to work with the Fluvanna Master Gardeners on what we hope will be the first of many composting workshops in the region,” added Billie Campbell, Acting Executive Director of the TJPDC. “Promoting composting is one of the strategies in our regional solid waste management plan to decrease the amount of waste being landfilled.” A 1996 study at the Ivy Landfill found that nearly a quarter of the waste being disposed there from Charlottesville and Albemarle could have been composted instead. To reduce its solid waste, Lake Monticello began leaf composting this fall at their Tufton Lake site, where homeowners may bring their leaves and acorns Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9AM to 3PM.

The Fluvanna Master Gardeners are a local chapter of the Virginia Master Gardeners Association. The Master Gardeners are volunteers working in partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) to solve gardening problems and teach environmentally sound practices. In order to earn the title of Master Gardener, individuals complete 50 hours of training and 50 hours of community service. The Fluvanna Master Gardeners celebrated their tenth

anniversary earlier this year. To learn more about becoming a Master Gardener, contact <http://www.fluvannamg.org/>, or the Fluvanna Master Gardeners, Virginia Cooperative Extension - Fluvanna County Office, P. O. Box 133, Palmyra, VA, 23963, phone: 434.591.1950.

The TJPDC works to forge sustainable solutions to regional issues in the City of Charlottesville and the Counties of Fluvanna, Albemarle, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson. Founded in 1972, the TJPDC has been involved in regional solid waste planning since 1983. The most recent plan, approved by the Department of Environmental Quality in 2006, takes its guidance from the planning district's 1998 Sustainability Accords, which called for the reduction, and where possible, elimination of waste. Recycling rates in the solid waste planning region (Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna and Greene) have climbed from 27% in 2005 to 36.5% in 2007, well above the state-mandated 25% level. The solid waste plan can be found in the Environment section of TJPDC's website at <http://www.tjpd.org>.