



Master Gardener

Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

April 2007

Upcoming Events...

April 26th Debbie Roos - Organic Gardening – Hort. Agent, Chatham County

April 12, 13, 14th ... MG Plant sale

April 22nd Coastal Water Watch

April 28th Leland Spring Fest

May 1-5th International Convention Little Rock <http://mg2007.uaex.edu/default.htm>

May 10, 11, 12th ... MG Plant sale

May 20th Oak Island Garden Tour

June 28 Recognition Luncheon guest speaker, Lucy Bradley

Oct 8, 9, 10th State MG Conference in Raleigh

December 13 Holiday Party

Upcoming Speakers

May 24th Bryon Capo - Trees - Urban Forestry - County Urban Forestry Agent, New Hanover County.

June 28th Lucy Bradley - NCSU

July 26th Bill Lord - Water Quality – Area Specialized Agent, Franklin Co.

August 23rd Emily Revels - Hort Agent, Cumberland County

Sept. 27th Some type of MG Social

Oct. 25th Toby Bost, Hort Agent, Forsyth County - Has written books on gardening.

Nov 29th Dick Bir - Retired - worked at Fletcher Research Station in Fletcher NC.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

The plant sales provide much of our funding for the year. Be sure to help! We need; Help Ash Tag Plants

Volunteers to Clerk the Sale

The Word Spread to Buyers

Come and Buy for Your Garden

Thur. April 12th 9-5, Fri. 13th 9-5, Sat. 14th 9-2



The greenhouse will have lots of tomato plants for the April sale as well as annuals and perennials.

Flowers, veggies and vines, fruits, ornamental grasses. **GREAT PRICES!**

Cooperative Extension Service

County Government Center, Bolivia, NC

Greenhouse behind building N

For the Most Current Info...

Our website (<http://bcmastergardener.org/>) has a calendar that is now being updated regularly. Check it out and be a member that knows what is going on. Better yet, if you know of an event you feel our members would be interested in, email me and I will post them. j.loughlin@ec.rr.com

Wanted: *Master Gardeners with expertise in creating web pages. We are forming a technology committee to help bring information to you more efficiently. Call Al Smith 910-457-667*

There is still room in the Plant ID and turf grass classes if you would like to attend either of these classes.

Will we see you at the April Meeting on the 26th ?

MG Articles in MG Office

The MG Office is a great place to research gardening questions. I hope everyone (especially our new Master Gardeners) is aware that all the recent (last several years) newspaper articles that are written by the Brunswick County Master Gardeners are on file in the office. There is a set of two large notebooks which hold the articles. There is an index in the front of the first book with all the articles listed in alphabetical order. One of these articles may be the perfect response to a hot-line question. You can easily remove the article, make a copy and send it off the gardener with the question! Two very recent articles discuss the merits of the Encore Azalea and the Knock Out Rose. Please browse through the two volumes the next time you are in the office to become familiar with them and remember that they are a great resource readily available to all master gardeners.

Judy Koehly

Automation Committee

AI Smith stated the web calendar has been updated to include all events of the BCMGVA. Anyone wishing to add information should e-mail Joe Loughlin. The web pages are also being updated and if anyone would like to volunteer their help with this see AI or Joe.



BED EDGING: Once a year gardeners need to redefine the edges of the plant borders. Adding mulch is a good idea, but the area will look much better and be easier to manage throughout the summer if they re-edge. Take a flat blade shovel and trench out about 2-3 inches deep and 5-6 inches wide all around the beds. Re-mulch, letting the trench be the border. This fresh, crisp line will accentuate the grass and the bed. Professional landscape managers do this routinely. Available now are several power trench masters that do an excellent job.

Master Gardeners Board Elected Officers:

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Vice president

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Webmaster

Lisa Miner
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Member news

Charlie Spencer

He had another surgery, but says this one is minor.

Maggie Hoon

Maggie Hoon is now in Brunswick Cove Rehabilitation Center.

Becky Dus

has volunteered to be the new Social Chairman.

Pesticide Disposal Success

David Barkley announced that over 15,000 pounds of pesticides were received at the extension disposal day program

Pruning Seminars Completed

There were approximately 20 people at the St James pruning seminar and 15 at River Run. Special thanks to Al & David for their additional work at the Moon residence.

Got Ground Pearl?

David Barkley, Hort Agent: Peter Hertyl NC. Crops Department – is continuing his study and research on ground pearl and is asking for help from BCMGVA members. He will train volunteers on all aspects of gathering information.

Have you paid your Dues? They're only \$5/yr. We have over 100 members who have paid so far.

Joe's Kitchen

What's growing in your garden? Right now I have all the collards, turnips, mustard, and kohlrabi that I can handle. Except for turnips these are all new crops for this Ohio



boy. (GO BUCKS) One I had never eaten before, Kohlrabi. Ash gave me a few plants last spring and they grew well in my little garden patch. The leaves are as good as or better than any other green and the tuber, swollen stem, or what ever you want to call it is much milder than a turnip and sweet. I have a new favorite!

Creamy Kohlrabi

3 Kohlrabi peeled
1 Potatoes peeled
Cream
Parsley leaves
Salt to taste

We often hear, "Sure, kohlrabi is cute. But what do I do with it?" Here's a suggestion: peel the little sputnik-shaped roots, and then boil them in water with a few potatoes until both are very tender. (About three kohlrabies to one potato is a good ratio.) After draining, puree them in a blender or food processor along with cream, a big handful of parsley leaves and a generous pinch of salt. Return the mixture to the pan and reheat before serving. The parsley will give it a glorious, green color. And the potato will add just enough starch to ensure a good texture and consistency.

Email me your favorite recipes today, so I can try them out and pick a winner for next month.
jloughlin@ec.rr.com

Come To The Work Days!

Work days are scheduled on the First Monday and Third Tuesday, monthly, 8-11. Tools you will need will be provided, bring your own gloves & safety Equipment. Hilton and Jim have many tasks to accomplish;

1. Incorporation of organic matter in the planting bed at the fuel station
2. Plant the trees at the fuel pump garden
3. Remove gardenia stump and the vitex tree stump
4. Add fill dirt to the area where the gardenia stump is taken out
5. Re-grade the rain garden
6. Set the drain tile through the rain garden to the ditch
7. till the connector building garden
8. Transplant trees and shrubs needing to be moved
9. Fluff all the mulched areas lightly to refresh
10. Move the pallet of stone to an out of way place
11. Move the pile of rock to the greenhouse area and apply where needed - under propagation beds
12. Cut undergrowth along the tree trail path
13. Weed beds
14. Edge along walks
15. Plant labeling

The gardens that have the highest priority are:

1. Connector garden
2. Fuel station planting
3. Circle garden - for crape myrtle planting
4. Rain garden/shade garden
5. Garden area near the water pool where gardenia was removed -proposed conifer garden site
6. Finish plantings for building F

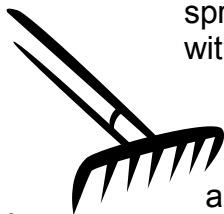
Thanks for your interest in the gardens,

Gardening Tips for April

By David Barkley

Hope the winter has not been too hard on you. We look forward to this spring being an exciting one filled with lots of interesting gardening activities.

Now that outdoor activities are beginning to pick up you will want to keep in mind some tips that will help you out in your spring gardening chores. Start easy and work your way up. Don't overexert those under-worked, winter muscles as you begin your spring gardening. Bend at the knees and lift with your legs, not your back.



If your garden space is limited, grow vegetables that are especially delicious and nutritious, such as tomatoes and green, leafy vegetables. Also select those that bear for a long time, such as broccoli. Cucumbers and melons do well on a fence, if the fruit is supported by slings. A home-made trellis can save space for vining vegetables. An A-frame cucumber trellis consists of two matched, ladder-like structures hinged together at the top; the two sections are staggered to allow nesting when stored.

Leafy vegetables need at least six hours of sunlight to develop properly. Fruiting vegetables such as tomatoes, squash, eggplant and peppers need 10 hours of full sun. Don't grow what your family won't eat!

When the weather is wet or cold, allow about twice the germination time listed on the seed packet. If there is no sign of growth after this time, dig around a little to check for sprouted seeds. If you find no signs of life, the seed has probably rotted and you will need to replant. For faster growth of vegetables in containers, use black plastic pots to warm the soil (81

degrees F on sunny days compared to 72 degrees for the same mixes in clay or white plastic pots).

Introducing children to gardening can be a rewarding experience for the entire family. Give them a small plot of their own with full sun, good soil, and drainage. It's a pleasant and productive way to spend time together.



Resist the urge to buy more chemicals than you can use in a season -- the smaller the bottle, the better. If you have aged, garden chemicals you no longer use, dispose of them according to local regulations. Do not pour them down the drain or onto the ground as this can pollute the water systems, damage the soil and possibly injure or kill plants, people and animals.

GARDEN CHORES for April

- Delay organic mulching to allow soil to warm deeply, but act before weeds become established.
- Harden transplants of vegetables by decreasing water, fertilizer and growing temperatures. Transplant them on a shady day in late afternoon or in early evening to reduce transplant shock. Water the transplants with a half-strength fertilizer solution. For a few days after transplanting, protect the plants from wind and sun by placing a piece of newspaper or cardboard on their south sides or by covering with jugs, baskets or flower pots. Water the plants once or twice during the next week.
- To better evaluate gardening successes, keep weather records along with garden records. The most

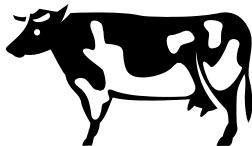
important items to report are daily minimum and maximum temperatures, precipitation, cloud cover, and frost occurrences.

- An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but two carrots a day can cut cholesterol levels by 10 to 20 percent, say USDA scientists. Carrots, as well as cabbage and onions, contain a type of fiber that lowers cholesterol.
- If you plan to can or freeze, plant determinate tomatoes so the fruit will ripen all at once. If you prefer tomatoes fresh from the vine, plant indeterminate tomatoes so the ripening will be staggered.
- When tomato seedlings have five to seven leaves, they are ready to transplant into the garden.
- Newly transplanted plants should be protected from cutworms with collars. Cut strips of cardboard 2 inches wide by 8 inches long and staple them into a band which is placed around the plants. Press the collar about 1 inch into the soil.
- Don't use a weed-and-feed type fertilizer in the garden. Weed killers don't know a vegetable from a weed. They may injure or contaminate your crops.
- If you take your own tools to work with in community gardens, you can "brand" wood-handled tools for quick identification. Paint your initials on the wood with nail polish then immediately ignite it. Repeat to make the marks deeper, if needed.

Inquiring Gardeners Want To Know... Manure: Is it Safe for your Garden?

Microorganisms which cause disease can be transferred from animal manures to humans. The pathogens Salmonella, Listeria and E.coli, as well as parasites, such as roundworms and tapeworms, have been linked to applications of manure to gardens.

Publicity about illnesses due to E.coli 0157:H7 has made people more aware of the potential risk of food borne illness from manure contamination. As a result, many are now asking whether it is safe to use manure on their gardens.



So, how risky is the use of manure in gardens and compost piles? If you use fresh manure in the garden, there is a small risk that pathogens which cause disease may contaminate garden vegetables. The risk is greatest for root crops, like radishes and carrots, and leafy vegetables, such as lettuce, where the edible part touches the soil. Careful washing and/or peeling will remove most of the pathogens responsible for the disease. Thorough cooking is even more effective.

To reduce the risk of disease, we suggest these precautions:

- Apply fresh manure at least 60 days before harvesting of any garden vegetables which will be eaten without cooking. If you apply manure within 60 days of harvest, use only aged or composted manure.
- Never apply fresh manure after the garden is planted. Thoroughly wash raw vegetables before eating.
- Do not use cat, dog or pig manure in gardens or compost piles, because some of the parasites which can be found in these manures may survive and remain infectious for people.
- People who are especially susceptible to food borne illnesses should avoid eating uncooked vegetables from manured gardens.
- Those who face special risks from food borne illness include pregnant women, very young children, and persons with chronic diseases, such as cancer, kidney failure, liver disease, diabetes or AIDS.

From Van Bobbitt, Master Community Horticulture Coordinator & Dr. Val Hillers, Food Specialist, Washington State University edited and adapted by David Barkley for Southeastern North Carolina

The Brunswick County Green Pages ...

directory is now available online! Follow the link. This quick-reference directory outlines horticultural products and services available in Brunswick County and lists the business locations, hours of operation, products and/or services, telephone numbers, and addresses.

<http://brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/10/green%20pages1.doc>

The directory may be obtained by visiting the Brunswick County Welcome Center, Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce, Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce, North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce, Southport Visitors Center, public libraries, or the Cooperative Extension Service in the County Government Center in Bolivia.

2007 Dues Notice

Dues are payable by January 1 each year.

Make checks payable to: Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association (BCMGVA)
\$5.00 per Individual

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Mail checks to: **Allen Smith**

4515 Fieldstone Cir SE
Southport, NC 28461

NAMETAG; you have earned it, now wear it.
We would all like to know your name.

If you have an item for the newsletter, submit it to Joe Loughlin (jloughlin@ec.rr.com)

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