



Master Gardener

Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2008

Upcoming Events...

- April 7th** Work Day in Garden & Greenhouse
- April 9-13th** Wilmington Azalea Festival
- April 10,11,&12** Spring Plant Sale
- April 15th** Oak Island Coastal Water Watch
- April 15th** South Brunswick Kiwanis
- April 15-16th** Supply Elementary project
- April 19th** Coastal garden Club Tour of Gardens & Spring Tea at Woodsong
- April 19th** Festival, Silver Coast Winery
- April 23rd** Winding River, Spring preparation and waterwise seminar
- April 26th** River Run Firewise program
- April 29-30th** Supply Elementary project
- May 8-9-10th** Plant sale
- May 3rd** Southport Wal-Mart Seminar
- May 7th** Leland Library Seminar
- May 10th** Hickman Crossroads Library
- May 15th** Southport Library Seminar
- June 18-21st** Southern Region Master Gardener Conference
- Oct 5-8** 2008 MG Conference in Brunswick County
- Dec 10th** Christmas Party

Upcoming Speakers

- April 24th** Peter Hertyl - NCSU - Ground Pearls
- May 22nd** Bryce Lane NCSU Gardening Ideas
- June 28th** Frank Galloway - Plants for local use
- July 24th** Dr. Frank Blazich - NCSU - Summer Propagation
- Aug 28th** Charlotte Glen - Plants for difficult situations
- Sept. 25th** Ronda Sherman - Vermicomposting

Oct 23rd Toby Bost

Nov. 20th updates by horticulture staff

Plant Sale!

Thursday and Friday hours are 8:00 until 12:30 and afternoon hours are 12:30 until 5:00. Sat. hours are 9:00 until 12:00 and afternoon hours are 12:00 until 2:00- 3:00 depending upon the traffic.

Hardscape

Hilton Holcomb has been in charge of our gardens and hardscape for many years; He has decided to take a little break. We all thank you Hilton for all your service and dry wit. Fred Minor will take over and some of the major projects that he will be working on this year include two ramps, decking replacement, the bridge over the dry creek area, and the storage sheds. Fred used to work summers as carpenter. Please let him know if you are willing to help with some of the projects, fmina@theminas.net, 278-6205

Wanted! Name our Newsletter

Let's come up with a catchy name!
Send Me your suggestions
jloughlin@ec,rr.com

Wanted: Herbarium to make a collection of dried plants mounted and labeled for use in scientific examination. See Shirley.

Rain Barrels are available for anyone interested. We will sell them ready to go for \$50.00 each.

2008 Dues are due! [See back page.](#)

**Will we see you at the April Meeting
on the 24th at 9:00 am ?**

From the Presidents Desk ...

Welcome to the new Master Gardener Classes. Thanks to all Master Gardener's who have been faithfully attending our membership meetings you are what make the association what it is.

Our program for April will be Peter Hertyl from NCSU his topic will be Ground Pearls. Peter has been coming to speak to us since 1993 when the first class for Master Gardener's was held in Brunswick County.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a list of upcoming events that need volunteer workers, sign up and don't forget the hot line.

In the April issue of "Our State" magazine is an interesting article on Master Gardeners. If you do not receive it the next time you are in the library take a look. The article is on page 140. It is written by a Transylvania County Master Gardener who lives in Brevard.

Everyone working on the 08 conference is busy trying to make it the best conference ever. If you are one of those working on the conference don't forget to keep track of your time as it counts toward volunteer hours. At the conference we will be giving door prizes and have a silent auction. If you have something you would like to donate let us know for either a door prize or silent auction. Do you paint, build something, have extra plants, etc? We will be happy to accept your donation.

Charlie says:

GET YOUR HOURS TURNED IN!

Your hours must be recorded if you want to qualify as a master gardener and they are also important to Dave & me to show the impact Master Gardeners has on Brunswick County.

There has been a secretary realignment.

Bette will be the Master Gardener secretary from now on.

Gina will be the secretary for 4-H and Martha.



. We were sorry to here that Linda Ruddick's husband passed away on March 29th. May God give you and your family comfort in your grief.

Master Gardeners Board Elected Officers:

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shirley312@webtv.net

910-754-4148

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gwrigley@atmc.net

910-846-3341

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910-575-7679

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webmaster@bcmastergardener.org

Joe's Kitchen

This is the time of year when very little is coming from our gardens and traditionally two pies that were made when fruit was not available were Chess and **Black Bottom Pie**. Both are great, but space only allows one.

Crust: Life's too short; buy one from the refrigerator case

Filling: ½ cup of sugar

- 2 Tbl. cornstarch & pinch of salt
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 envelope (7g) of unflavored gelatin
- 4 Tbl. water
- 4 oz. semi-sweet chocolate
- 1 ½ cups of whole milk
- 1 cup of heavy cream
- 1 tps. vanilla
- 3 Tbl. light rum
- 2 egg whites
- Pinch of cream of tartar
- Dark chocolate shavings

Prick the bottom of your crust, line it with wax paper, weigh down the paper down with dried beans or rice, and bake 15 minutes in a 400° oven. Remove the paper and beans and bake 10-15 minutes longer till golden brown. Leave to cool.

Combine sugar, cornstarch, salt, and yolks; mix well in a bowl & set aside. Mix gelatin and 2 Tbl. of water & set aside to soften. Melt Chocolate with 1 Tbl. water gently till smooth and set aside.

Scald milk and ½ cup of cream and slowly add to egg yolk mixture and stir till sugar dissolves. Stirring constantly cook mixture until thick enough to coat back of spoon. Remove from heat and add vanilla.

Add 1 cup of custard to chocolate mixture, stir till smooth and pour into pie shell, refrigerate. Stir in gelatin & rum to remaining custard. Allow to cool, but stir to prevent skin



forming. Whip remaining cream (not stiff), beat egg whites and tartar to soft peaks. Mix whipped cream & fold egg whites into remaining custard and spoon evenly over chocolate layer. Refrigerate 3 hr. and serve with a topping of chocolate shavings.

from American Tradition, a classic guide to regional cooking.

New Websites are being developed for local MG sites. Go to <http://ncsugarden.com> to see what may be in store for our future. Eventually we can keep our volunteer hours online, the calendar and many other features are already working. Visit with a Guest Pass by selecting Guilford County Type Your Name and use Password = Welcome.

Southern Region Master Gardener Conference - June 18-21, 2008 in Oklahoma – for detail check the website <http://www.mastergardener2008.com>

Work Days

Please come and help us when you have time, but especially on the work days. April 7th & 15th and May 5th

Gardens: Jim Blake is available to direct your work.

Greenhouse: Tyler Ash always needs help weeding and getting plants ready for sale.

Master Gardener, Carol Wilson

reminded everyone to join the State Association. Dues are \$10.00 and to see her if you want to join. You will find a form on the last page that you may print out, fill in, and send in.

David Barkley

Extension Horticulture Agent
Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service

April GARDEN CHORES

- 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 on a shady day in late afternoon or in early evening to reduce transplant shock. Water 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.

MASTER GARDENING TIPS – APRIL 2008

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. 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.

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.

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).

Resist the urge to buy more chemicals than you can use in a season -- the smaller the bottle, the better. If you overbought in the past and 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.

Wild Onion / Wild Garlic in landscapes

It seems wild onion/wild garlic is coming up everywhere. There are no good control measures for these weeds in landscape

beds. Spot spray with non-selective herbicides such as Roundup-Pro, Finale or Reward. Reapply as needed. Since the foliage is "hard to wet" it is often helpful to add a non-ionic surfactant to the spray, and to use a little bit of spray that is of a higher concentration.

For example: if you sprayed at 1 gallon per 1000 sq ft (of spray solution), the droplets would likely just roll off the leaves. However, if the spray volume is reduced to 1 quart per 1000 sq. ft., the droplets are more likely to stay on the wild onion leaves. Here is a case where more is definitely not better. You can apply the same amount of Roundup-Pro per 1000 sq. ft. -- just do it in less water. In most turf areas, the recommended treatment is 2,4 -D.

POST BULB PERFORMANCE: After the spring-flowering bulbs show off, fertilize with an application of 8-8-8 (repeat fall application). After the petals fade and fall off, remove flower organs with scissors or hand pruners, and allow the foliage to die a natural death.



*Application for Membership**

**Note: Membership in the NCMGVA is limited to active North Carolina Master Gardeners*

Effective January 1, 2008, the dues for membership are \$10.00 per year. The membership year runs from January 1 thru December 31.

In order to be retained on the rolls, members must renew no later than March 1 of the year following the expiration of their membership.

Please make checks payable to:

NCMGVA

and mail to:

**Barbara Walters, Treasurer
1649 Halltown Rd.
Jacksonville, NC 28546**

Amount Enclosed: _____

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

Address: _____
(PO Box, Number, Street, please include N., S., E., W., if needed)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Check here to request only one mailing to this address. RESET

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____ MG County: _____

Membership Status: New Renewal Rejoin

How would you like to receive the quarterly newsletter? E-mail Mail

May we include your contact information in the member directory? Yes No

2008 Dues Notice

Dues are payable by January 1 each year.

(But we will accept them now!) (Hint! Give us a twenty and forget it for 4 years)

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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www.bcmastergardener.org

www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick

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