



Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

August 2005

A Message From Our President:

Comments, Please

A TOAST TO OLIVER

Judy Koehly's story about Oliver is both enjoyable and thought provoking, as intended. There is a little bit of the same theme as the old saw about "the trees and the forest." Even in our retirement there seem to be lots of trees to attend to and it is possible to forget to step back every now and then and view the entire forest. Oliver the cat saw it all, every element of the fauna and flora created for him and then others. So, my message is simple. In MGV we have lots of "trees" to attend to and you all do a marvelous job. Make sure to pause and take a look around you, and continue to add to that view. I am looking as I type at cannas, abelia, crape, roses, elephant ear, zinnias, straw flowers, and tomatoes to be picked. And there is more... indeed just this thought has convinced me to order those reblooming bearded iris on p.121 of August Better Homes and Gardens. Boy, am I glad that you all reminded me to do that so they will be added to my view.... and thanks to Oliver as well.

Happy Planting!!!

Dan

This issue is the first prepared specifically to go onto the web site. If you checked out the July issue on the web site, you should have noticed the different "look" compared to the mailed version. Lisa made changes in format, fonts, etc. make posting the newsletter on the web more manageable, both in terms of the size of the file and by eliminating fonts and other features that may not be available to everyone who might want to print a copy.

We see this as an evolving project. We'd like your feedback – were you able to access the web site and open/read/print the newsletter without problem? If you had a problem, what exactly was it? Do you have an idea for items that could be included in the newsletter? If you have comments or suggestions for improving the newsletter's look or content, please let us know.

Thanks!

Becky (rcd@nfcexperts.com)
Nancy (nancye714@yahoo.com)
Cathie (csrod@ec.rr.com)
Lisa (lisaminer@mac.com)

Is shooting your weeds considered a sin?

-Christine Blanksvard, *My Garden Slumbers*

News from Charlie -

We have been asked to help out on "Make a Difference Day." This is a county-wide event occurring on October 22. One of the events is a food drive for Brunswick Family Assistance Agency. For all those who wish to help out, please bring the food in during October and I will keep it in my office until the 22nd which I will give it to Jayne Mathews, Volunteer Coordinator for the county.

The seminar conducted by Dr. Frank Blazich was quite a success. We had 19 folks, other than Master Gardeners, who paid \$5.00 each to attend the session. Our Master Gardeners who attended seemed to enjoy the hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. Friday morning turned out to be a pleasant day with clouds so that our learning session on taking cuttings and sticking them in the propagation beds was comfortable. Dr. Blazich indicated that many of the plants in the garden would propagate better if we did the cuttings in the winter (hardwood cuttings). He is willing to come back in January and help us take cuttings at that time, on a date to be determined later after the start of his school. Dr. Blazich's wife, April Blazich, Superintendent of the Horticulture Department at the North Carolina State Fair, will do a seminar on the same date on the subject of Herbs, Bulbs, etc. We get two for the price of one! In addition, she has invited us to attend the opening day of the State Fair this year [October 14]. She seems to be a great lady and wanted to know if we could come up a day early, which would involve an overnight stay, and she would have time to show us around. She also requested that we enter the competition by taking Horticultural items to be judged. I will discuss this with David Barkley when he gets back. We could also include a visit to Plants Delight Nursery if Tony Avent is agreeable. We will need to have some kind of an idea who would be interested in either a one-day trip just to the fair or in an overnight trip with additional side trips. Please call Chappy or me and let us know if you would be interested. We would need to plan so we would have to have some idea by the end of August. I will take the van so I can carry up to 12 folks including me.

The new class is busy working on the Hot Line and we are receiving lots of interesting calls. Be sure to sign up so all incoming calls can be taken care of in a timely manner. If you refer any calls to an Agent, please be sure Kathy gets a copy – she need to know as she has to answer the questions is the Agent is not here. Always try to keep her informed.

Don't forget that Steve Bambara will give a "hands-on" talk on insects, etc. Don't miss this one.

The fall season is almost upon us. Lots of things will be going on including the Fall Plant sale on October 7th and 8th.

Charlie

P.S. Thanks for the gift card--Lou and I will enjoy a great meal!

Master Gardeners Board

Elected Officers:

President

Dan Sokoloski

dssoko@hotmail.com

910-253-4521

Vice president

Alan Fitzgibbon

afitzgibbon@atmc.net

910-287-7900

Treasurer

Linda Lemieux

rellgl@aol.com

910-253-4245

Volunteer chairs:

Recording Secretary

Richard Boland

rboland@atmc.net

910-579-5791

Corresponding Secretary/Library

Peggy Meinzer

pmeinzer@lockwoodfolly.net

910-842-4928

MG Coordinator - Coop. Extension

Charlie Spencer

Charlie_spencer@ncse.edu

910-383-6432

NCMGVA Liaison

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

shirley312@webtv.net

910-754-4148

Newsletter Editor

Becky Dus

rcd@nfcexperts.com

910-253-8937

Restitution & Greenhouse

Al Powell

kathnal@atmc.net

910-579-8969

Greenhouse

Ash Tyler

at Tyler@ec.rr.com

910-278-6101

Gardens

Hilton Holcomb

hholbomb@atmc.com

910-575-4943

Maggie Hoon

fredmaggie@earthlink.net

910-278-5306

Curator-Herbarium

Mary Bausch

marybausch@ec.rr.com

910-278-5306

Banquets/Parties

Arlene Hubner

ahubner@ec.rr.com

910-253-3269

Listen to Al Hight's "The Coastal Gardener" radio program
on Saturday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on 106.3 FM and 103.9 FM

HOTLINE
NEWS
FOR
YOUR

In August 2004, there were 103 calls to the Hotline. The breakdown of these calls is as follows:

General: 26. Questions about soil samples, their reports and fertilizer application were predominant. In addition, there were 10 general questions that could be handled with the MG files.

Lawns: 22. The majority of the calls concerned problems with centipede and weeds in the lawn.

Trees: 26. The calls were about problems on numerous varieties of trees - Leland cypress, dogwood, redbud and fruit trees. However, the most calls concerned tree damage due to storms.

Shrubs: 2. Calls were received about azaleas.

Pests: 19. The pests were numerous and varied. Bagworms and bees had the most inquiries.

Vegetables: 6. Tomatoes, cucumbers and general garden questions were received.

Flowers: 4. Various flowers - nothing specific.

When you work on the Hotline, write down as much information as possible about the problems and their solutions on the Hotline forms. The back of the form has some questions to help you clarify the caller's problem.

Reminder from Charlie: **DO NOT** diagnose disease or pests over the phone! You need a specimen to make a proper diagnosis. All turf problems should go to Al or Charlie, other problems to Dave or Charlie.

August Gardening Tips From David Barkley

Lawn Care:

- Watch for chinch bugs in St. Augustinegrass and be prepared to apply Baygon or various types of pyrethroids such as Tempo, Talstar, etc. for best control
- Fertilize the warm seasoned grasses with $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 pound of actual nitrogen, except Centipede grass. Late applications of nitrogen may cause winter kill or cold injury to Centipede grass.
- Watch for mole cricket activity - small tunnels at the soil surface. Top Choice (fipronil) is usually applied for mole cricket control in late May. You may also use Talstar and other labeled pyrethroids as needed according to label directions.
- Large Patch disease control applications should be applied when soil temperatures decrease to around 70 degrees which will usually be sometime in mid to late September.

Landscape Plants:

- Powdery mildew on Crape myrtles: Pay close attention to your crape myrtle foliage. Banner or Bayleton may be used to control Powdery Mildew if you notice a white powdery substance on your Crape Myrtles.
- Help your crape myrtles lose weight this summer. As the flowers fade, tip prune them. This will encourage new, dense growth and more flowers for late summer.
- Annual Flower Beds: A closed canopy will shade out many weeds. Periodic cultivations will suppress many weeds. Mulches will suppress many annual weeds.
- Unpruned plants are good candidates to be blown over in a thunderstorm. Also a good summer trim will encourage new growth and possibly more flower buds for late summer or fall. Several plants to consider for midsummer clean-up are: Tansy, Hollyhocks, Mexican Bush Sage, Santolina, Comfrey, Catnip, Queen Anne's Lace, Fennel, and Thyme. Remember to keep a 3-4 inch layer of an organic mulch throughout the perennial border. Also keep any insect pests under control and fertilize if necessary. (Continued on page 4)

...More from David Barkley:

- If you are growing summer color plants in containers, it will help to keep a water saucer under the pot. Pots will not dry out as quickly. It will also help to add peat moss and soil to the pine bark media to hold moisture. Be sure to mix the amendments together thoroughly before planting. Watering frequency will be greatly reduced.

AUGUST LANDSCAPE TIPS:

- Spring flowering bulb catalogues are arriving, so it must be time to start thinking about next years' garden. Now is a good time to design that garden, but wait until it cools off a bit to actually do anything. Spring flowering bulbs are best planted in late October through November. If you don't have anything else to do, go ahead and take a soil sample.
- Late Summer Renovation: After 4 or 5 months of growing, many landscape beds are probably in need of a good weeding and edging. Most plantings would benefit from a total late summer renovation. This would include hand pulling the annual weeds and grasses and spraying a contact herbicide on the tough perennial weeds and grasses if you have any.
- Perennials and most woody plants can stand a tip pruning or even a heading-back trim. Some perennials will probably need staking.
- Re-edge the plant beds, apply a pre-emergent herbicide if necessary and add a fresh layer of mulch.

There's no reason why we shouldn't try some of these plant combinations in NC landscapes.

For Summer:	Lantana:	Miss Huff's Hardy, Radiation, New Gold
	Annual Hibiscus:	Red Shield
	Silver Dollar:	Eucalyptus cinera
	Egyptian Starflower:	Pentas lanceolata
	Sweet Potato:	Ipomoea Blackie
	Wormwood:	Artemisia Powis Castle
	Narrow-leaf Zinnia:	Zinnia angustifolia

By late July, many bedding plants that were installed in May have had it. You may consider renovating these beds with a fresh planting of the following:

Cosmos:	Bright Lights, Early Wonder, Imperial Pink
Zinnia:	Goodness, Torch
Marigold:	Tagetes Snowdrift
Cleome"	Cherry Queen
Annual Vinca:	Pretty in Rose
Alyssum:	Cheers Rose

Excellent Fall Blooming Perennials:

Sage:	Salvia madrensis
Mexican Bush Sage:	Salvia leucantha
New England Aster	Aster nova- angliae
Swamp Sunflower	Helianthus giganteus
Tartarian Aster	Aster tartaricus

Speakers, Speakers, Speakers...

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman and David Barkley have been scheduling speakers for our General Meetings. Dr. Blazich was a big hit – he was an excellent speaker with an obvious love of his topic and a wealth of knowledge that he enjoyed sharing with everyone.

These speakers are scheduled for the next several meetings; mark your calendar and come out to hear what they have to say.

August: Steve Bambara is an Extension Specialist for Entomology and also on the NCSU faculty in the Entomology Department; he will speak to us about insects – natch! - and will do a hands-on clinic with us. So come on out to the meeting and learn about all those pesky bugs and the helpful insects in your garden.

September: TBA – looking for a plant pathology specialist.

October: Erv Evans, State Coordinator for Master Gardeners, NCSU, will talk to us regarding the legal aspects of Master Gardener activities and responsibilities. He wrote many of the chapters in the Master Gardener manual.

November: Dr. Wanda Sykes is the Southeast District Extension Director. She will talk about the 13-county district that includes Brunswick County, its structure and operations and how it fits in with NCSU.

If you have any suggestions for speakers who can extend our knowledge of gardening, or if you have ideas for topics for the General Meetings, let Shirley or Dave know.

Speaking of Shirley...she will be participating in a “Crucial Conversations” workshop on August 4 and 5, along with 7 State Advisory Council members, 4 A & T Strategic Planning Council members, 4-H volunteers, ECA volunteers and other Master Gardeners. The curriculum is designed to help participants learn and practice skills to use when engaged in a crucial conversation.

State Meeting Dates

- The 2005 conference will be in Goldsboro on Oct. 28 and 29. Look for your invitation this summer and make your reservation early.

Member News:

- Hilton Holcomb is doing well after his knee surgery.
- Debbie Snyder was very sick with septicemia and has been recovering.
- Let's keep Nancy Lehto in our thoughts.

Etc:

- Keep the Fall Plant Sale in mind; come out and give a hand, on October 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and October 8 from 9 a.m. until ??
- Charlie will be at the Southport WalMart on September 17 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and again in November (to be scheduled).
- We should be getting more involved with our schools – we have a contact person to work with and will begin talking to them about how we can help them and work with the kids.
- Some work has been completed on the Talking Tree Trail. The classroom area been completed by one Eagle Scout candidate, and another will be working on the entrance. We will begin our work when the cooler days of fall arrive.

“I’m dirty, tired, sore, and, every damn weed in that garden is dead.”

-Mike Garofalo, *Pulling Onions: The Maxims of Gardening*

Meetings!

General meetings - 9 AM

August 25, September 22, October 27

Board meetings - 9 AM

August 16, September 13, October 18

Minutes of previous meetings can be seen at:

<http://bcmastergardener.org/documents.html>

David Barkley is on the radio
WAAB 980 AM – 10-11 a.m.
On the last Friday of the month.
Listen and call him with your horticultural
questions.

“Gardening by the Month” continues to be
a very successful fund raiser.

Remember to take the time to smell the
roses!

If you have an item for the newsletter, be sure to submit it to both Becky Dus
(rcd@nfcexperts.com) and Lisa Miner (lisaminer@mac.com)

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association
P.O. Box 109
Bolivia, NC 28422
Office: 910-253-2610

www.bcmastergardener.org

www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick

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