



## Master Gardener

# Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

# NEWSLETTER

December, 2007

## Upcoming Events...

**Dec 13th** Christmas Luncheon Party

**Dec.13&14** Festival of Lights

### Upcoming Speakers

**Jan 24<sup>th</sup>** Dean Bennett - Brunswick Community College - Plant Diseases

**Feb 28th** Chris Moorman - Wildlife Management

**March 27<sup>th</sup>** Ken Fager NCSU Growing Organic

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** Peter Hertyl - NCSU - Ground Pearls

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Bryce Lane NCSU Gardening Ideas

**June 28<sup>th</sup>** Frank Galloway - Plants for local use

**July 24<sup>th</sup>** Dr. Frank Blazich - NCSU - Summer Propagation

**Aug 28<sup>th</sup>** Charlotte Glen - Plants for difficult situations

**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>** Ronda Sherman - Vermicomposting

**Oct 24<sup>th</sup>** Toby Bost

**Nov. 29th** updates by horticulture staff or in the garden tape.

### Charlie Said:

Don't Forget the Christmas party is on the 13th of Dec. at 12:30.

Following the party, don't forget the Festival of Lights. We can use some help on the 13 and 14th of Dec., 6:00 -8:00 PM. Bring a friend and join us for the activities on both days. Talk it up!

Please bring your volunteer hours up to date. Dues are 5.00 dollars, payable by Jan. 1st, 2008. Might as well pay a couple of years in advance so you don't have to worry about it next year. By the way, I understand our fearless leader, Mr. Barkley, will be on hand for the Christmas Party. You don't want to miss that. For those of you I may not see until next year, have a safe and joyous Christmas season.

Greenhouse, Ash Tyler informed all that approximately 1,400 plants would be received the week of January 7. Help is needed to ready these plants for the 08 plant sales. The first sale will be April 10, 11 and 12 with the second on May 8, 9 and 10.

The fans in the greenhouse need upgrading to provide better circulation for all the plants.

Currently, consideration for renewing the Restitution program funds is in committee and the continuation of the budget for this program looks favorable.

### New officer for 2008

President - Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

Vice President – Grace Wrigley

Treasurer – Al Smith

Joe Loughlin and Dominique Loewenstein will be the nominating committee for 08

### Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

asked for more volunteers for the 08 State MG Conference. Program ads, sponsors, door prizes, decorations and possibly a silent auction are some areas needing volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please see or contact Shirley.

**Will we see you at the December Holiday Luncheon  
on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30?**

## Budget Time

It's that time again! Please prepare your budget requests for the coming year and submit them to Al Smith (asmith126@ec.rr.com) by November 19.

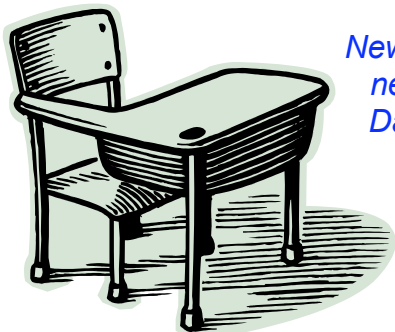
Thanks, Richard Boland

Christmas Party is Dec. 13th at 12:30. Invitations will be in the mail shortly. Make a note that the Master Gardeners donate canned and dry food to the County Family Assistance organization each year. Please remember to bring your donations of food for those less fortunate.

The Festival of Lights this year will be held on the evenings of Dec. 13th and 14th starting around 6:00PM. We will need help setting up and lighting the Luminaries and preparing the big room for the kids. Help us make this a wonderful event for both kids and parents.

Pests Lurking Outside: Be on the look out for insects which will soon be looking for places to over winter. Boxelder bugs occur on Acer negundo and will cover your window screens looking for a place to come inside. Even though they are not harmful they cause a stir of excitement from people who are not familiar with them making them think about Alfred Hitchcock's movie "The Birds". Well, in a sense, I guess the birds could come and try to feast on them. They become quite a nuisance pest as well once they get inside the house. Usually a stream of water is all that is needed to wash them away.

Ladybugs seem harmless enough but they can swarm in huge numbers congregating on the outside of your house during the fall as well. Consider a preemptive strike. Bifenthrin, cyfluthrin or permethrin are labeled for boxelder bugs and would take out the ladybugs if necessary. Treat door thresholds, window ledges and any places insects congregate or gain entry.



*New Classes are filling up. Tell your neighbors to call and sign up soon. David and Charlie are hoping to fill two classes again this year.*

## Master Gardeners Board

### Elected Officers:

President

Richard Boland  
[rboland@atmc.net](mailto:rboland@atmc.net)  
910-579-5791

Vice president

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman  
[shirley312@webtv.net](mailto:shirley312@webtv.net)  
910-754-4148

Treasurer

Al Smith  
[Asmith126@ec.rr.com](mailto:Asmith126@ec.rr.com)  
910-457-6674

### Volunteer Chairs:

Recording Secretary

Cathie Rod

[csrod@ec.rr.com](mailto:csrod@ec.rr.com)  
910-457-5091

Corresponding Secretary

Peggy Meinzer

[pmeinzer@lockwoodfolly.net](mailto:pmeinzer@lockwoodfolly.net)  
910-842-4928

Library

Grace Wrigley

[gwrigley@atmc.net](mailto:gwrigley@atmc.net)  
910-846-3341

MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

[Charlie\\_spencer@ncsu.edu](mailto:Charlie_spencer@ncsu.edu)  
910-383-6432

NCMGVA Liaison

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman  
[shirley312@webtv.net](mailto:shirley312@webtv.net)  
910-754-4148

Newsletter Editor

Joe Loughlin

[jloughlin@ec.rr.com](mailto:jloughlin@ec.rr.com)  
910-269-4038

Restitution & Greenhouse

Ash Tyler

[at Tyler@ec.rr.com](mailto:at Tyler@ec.rr.com)  
910-278-6101

Gardens

Hilton Holcomb

[hholcomb@atmc.com](mailto:hholcomb@atmc.com)  
910-575-4943

Maggie Hoon

[fredmaggie@earthlink.net](mailto:fredmaggie@earthlink.net)

910-253-0195

Banquets/Parties

Becky Dus

[rcd@nfcexperts.com](mailto:rcd@nfcexperts.com)  
910-253-8937

Membership

Dominique Loewenstein

[domilo@2khiway.net](mailto:domilo@2khiway.net)  
910-579-0161

History

Barbara McCoy

[mccoy@atmc.net](mailto:mccoy@atmc.net)  
910-575-7679

Webmaster

Lisa Miner

[webmaster@bcmastergardener.org](mailto:webmaster@bcmastergardener.org)

## Joe's Kitchen



The one plant I have enjoyed most since coming to Southport has been my Meyer's Lemon Tree. I bought it at

Transplanted Garden in Wilmington about 18 months ago. The first year I harvested 7 huge lemons from the tree. I made a different lemon pie with each lemon. It starts to bloom about now and when I will take it in for about six weeks to my bedroom soon, it will fill the room with the fragrance of lemon blossoms until it goes to the screen room for February and then back out on the deck. This last year I raised 35 lemons on the poor little tree.

They are about the size of normal lemons this year. The plant is always either blooming or growing fruit or both. What fun! All it seems to want is a well drained soil mixture, fertilizer (I use *Osmocote*), water, and lots of sunshine.

My lemon crop this year is going to be used for Christmas presents.

## Candied Lemons and Oranges

Slice whole lemons or Clementine oranges thinly and fill a pretty jar with them. Then make a simple syrup by boiling  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water and a cup of white sugar. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of Limon Cello for lemons or Grand Marnier for oranges. Cover the fruit with the syrup and screw on lids. Add Christmas covering for the lids and maybe a bow. Merry Christmas!!!



They can then be used as a garnish on pies or other deserts. Yummy! ☺

## David Barkley

### Extension Horticulture Agent

**You may wish to consider the following chores to perform at this time of the year:**

- Continue to plant trees and shrubs in the landscape. Keep them watered and use winter protection if necessary. Keeping them in a barn or garage for a few days to protect the root ball from freezing should be considered if cold weather is expected around planting time.
- Clean up the water garden. Remove floating leaves and algae from the water and discard any dead plant material. If there are any tender plants needing protection from freezing temperatures (tropical lilies etc.) remove them to a heated structure. If there are fish in the pool, be sure to maintain at least 18-20 inches of water all winter long.
- Remove leaves which have fallen on the turf. A leaf blower is more likely to remove leaves without disturbing the mulch when the leaves are dry. Run the blower on low and remove the leaves often or at least before they pile up.
- Recycle mums into the perennial border. Keep them watered and fertilized. Cut back next year and you should have a good display next fall.
- Seeds that mature and are shed from trees in the fall should be collected and sown immediately into prepared beds or containers. They generally will germinate the following spring. Acorns usually require removing the caps from the acorn. Dogwoods and magnolia seed should have the outer red covering soften by soaking the seed in water.

Red maple seeds ripen in the spring and should be collected and sown immediately after harvesting.

- Pinch tops of pansies and snapdragons to remove stocky growth.
- Prune lantana to 1/3 its height and spread.
- Check camellias and azaleas for spider mites and treat with insecticidal soap if mites are found.
- Remove older canes of raspberries and blackberries.
- Remove dead vegetable plants from the garden to prevent insects and diseases from over-wintering.
- Treat scales with a dormant oil spray applied to the branches and stems where scales are attached.
- If you removed your bird feeder during the summer, now is the time to put the feeder back out.

**Shrubs and Trees:** If you see neatly cut limbs falling off pecan, hickory or persimmon they are probably the result of the pecan twig girdler. This insect lays eggs in the twigs and then cuts them. They fall later. Destroying the limbs over the winter will kill the eggs or larvae. However, insects may fly in from adjacent woodlands. During heavy infestations, these insects have been known to girdle pear, grape and linden trees in addition to their preferred host.

**David Barkley** is doing well and should be back in the office in January. Hurrah!

**Hey, Have you soil tested yet?  
Many a problem can be solved by  
making sure your soil has what  
your plants need.**

## Daffodils

Daffodil, jonquil or paperwhite—one thing they can agree on is that these plants in the *Narcissus* family are timeless.

The charm of *Narcissus* is its flower shape, consisting of an outer perianth and an inner corona or trumpet. Single-colored cultivars range from the creamy white of 'Mount Hood' to the golden yellow of 'King Alfred' and 'Dutch Master.' 'Ice Follies' is a popular bicolor, with a white perianth and ruffled yellow trumpet. Even more spectacular are the orange trumpeted bicolors such as 'Barrett Browning.' Don't forget double blossoms such as 'Yellow Cheerfulness', or miniatures such as 'Minnow', which stands only 10 inches tall with multiple blossoms per stem. The variety is endless—I got to 75 in the JC Raulston Arboretum database before I stopped counting—though unproven cultivars should be tested in your garden on a limited scale.

Time of flowering varies greatly among cultivars and presents gardeners with the opportunity to have a continuously blooming daffodil bed from December through March. What could be a more cheerful addition to the winter landscape?

Full to partial sunlight is best. The blossoms generally will turn to face the sun. Make use of companion plants to keep the bed interesting through summer. Don't cut the foliage back until it has faded, which leaves the bed a bit messy.

When flowering performance wanes, it's time to divide. Just as the foliage fades is the best time. Share extra bulbs with friends or plant into a new bed. A soil test will tell you which nutrients to add, though in general any slow-release garden fertilizer should suffice.

**Paul McKenzie**

# 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](mailto:jloughlin@ec.rr.com))

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

[www.bcmastergardener.org](http://www.bcmastergardener.org)  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick)  
[www.ncmastergardeners.org](http://www.ncmastergardeners.org)



Postage stamp

First Class Mail