



Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

July 2005

A Message From Our President:

RECOGNITION

This is the month where we honor all of your contributions. We have the recent class graduates, including those who took advanced classes. Then there are those who have completed their second year requirements. Both the new class and the second year group represent the future of Master Gardener Volunteers.

Our history to date is dominated by those who have in many cases contributed thousands of hours over many years, led by the award winning effort of Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman. The most telling moment of our recent banquet was when we presented Commissioner Sandifer with a "check" for \$185,000 representing in-kind contributions to the county from Master Gardeners.

And with all of this we expect even more. Our base is still the hot line, the backbone of our volunteer efforts. With an ever growing greenhouse operation, a continually expanding Memorial Garden, lectures and help sessions throughout the county, and another new class next year, the opportunities for gardeners of all preferences abound. And, next year we expect to complete the Talking Tree Trail, and expand our work with youth throughout the county.

So, in recognizing the many accomplishments of the past we also recognize the potential of the future. Congratulations to you all, for what you have done, and for what you will do in the future.

-Dan

This is in Recognition of All of Us!

This past month we held our annual Recognition Dinner. Those who attended had a wonderful time. The food was spectacular – we would love to have some of the recipes to share with others in the newsletter.

In addition, we recognized the class that completed the Master Gardeners course this year, plus those who met the requirements for service to become Certified Master Gardeners, and those who went on to expand their knowledge through the plant identification and turf management courses.

This represents a lot of hard work and new knowledge for many, and the potential to share it with all our neighbors. Hmmm. See below.

We Need Your Help

The Hot Line, Greenhouse and Botanical Garden need your help. The Greenhouse needs people to water, fertilize and repot plants on a regular basis. The Botanical Garden needs people once a month - the 1st or 3rd Monday or the 2nd Tuesday - to be sure it continues to be an area we can be proud of and others in the government complex - and the county - can enjoy. And the Hot Line always needs someone to man the phones and provide answers.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO RECEIVED AN AWARD AT THE
RECOGNITION DINNER IN JUNE!**

“Thank You!”

At the Recognition Dinner, we recognized the efforts and dedication of some special people with a gift. Here are their words of appreciation for you.

From Al Hight: Thanks to all of you for the gift certificate to Elijah's. Melissa and I will enjoy a nice evening on the riverfront because of your generosity.

Thanks also for all of the support – through both labor and money – in building and developing the botanical garden. I have worked in five different counties in North Carolina with Extension. While some of those had excellent Master Gardener programs, none comes close to your level of commitment to Extension and the community. Your efforts make a big difference in the lives of Brunswick County children and adults and make our jobs easier and more fulfilling.

I hope you will continue to help us in our efforts to develop quality informal educational opportunities for the citizens of Brunswick County. As always, if I can assist you in any way, please feel free to call.

From Billy Privette, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development: Thank you so much for the gift card to Elijah's Restaurant. I really enjoy working with the Master Gardeners and as I said Thursday night -- I always get more in return than I give. You are a truly dedicated group of volunteers and I am fortunate to be associated with each of you!

I look forward to working with you in new programs you envision with youth in the future.

From Charlie Spencer: Once again the Master Gardeners have exceeded everyone's highest expectations. The recognition banquet was an outstanding success!

Special mention to Arlene Hubner and her crew for a great job of decorating of the room. Special thanks to Meg Shelton for providing the table decorations. As usual, Billy Privette did his thing in cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs! Billy always pitches in to help the Master Gardeners. The lady cooks in the kitchen kept me on the straight and narrow (not an easy job!).

Our president and leader kept things moving along nicely so everything was accomplished in a timely manner.

In my humble opinion, this was the best and finest banquet we have had, including the very first one many years ago.

Again, thanks to everyone who participated.

Charlie

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

More on the next page

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

More "Thank You's"

From David Barkley: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the gift presented to me Thursday night. I enjoy working with the Brunswick County Master Gardeners and you are the greatest! I look forward to many more years of continued work with this outstanding volunteer association.

From Kathy Walters: I had so much fun this past weekend spending the gift from the Extension Master Gardeners! Thank you so much!

I hope each of you know that we could not do all we do without you! You all make such significant contributions to the Cooperative Extension Service and your volunteer efforts allow me to do my job better. Your being in the office assisting clients helps me get secretarial tasks done for David, Billy, Al, Charlie, and Lindsay! Without you, it would be difficult for me to get everything done for them!

Your remembering me in this way Thursday night was unnecessary, but totally appreciated!

You're the best!

No, You're the Best! You are all great to work with and you are a big part of the reason many of us enjoy the Extension program so much.

SUMMER WATERING PRACTICES IN THE LANDSCAPE

One of the first signs of drought stress in ornamentals and turf is wilting. This is the case for plants in non irrigated areas. Many of our favorite plants show drought related symptoms differently. The leaves of some plants may exhibit marginal leaf burn or leaf scorching while others will simply wilt. An extended period without moisture can become a permanent, non reversible situation.

There are several plants that are typically grown in many landscapes that we can use as indicator plants. These plants wilt readily and are usually the first ones to show drought stress. They are azaleas, dogwoods, hydrangeas, most annuals and turf.

Member Notes

- Let's continue to keep Nancy Lehto in our thoughts as she continues her cancer treatments.
- Hilton Holcomb is recovering from knee surgery.
- Our condolences to Joe Gagliano whose mother passed away in late May.
- Bob Montgomery had shoulder surgery in mid-June and has been recovering at home.

State Meeting Dates

- The next NCMGVA Board Meeting will be in Wayne County (Goldsboro) on August 1 at 10 a.m. All Master Gardeners are welcome to attend.
 - The 2005 conference will also be in Goldsboro on Oct. 28 and 29. Look for your invitation this summer and make your reservation early.
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When these plants begin to look thirsty, you should have a plan to get water to the roots. A hand held hose is probably the fastest plan of action but, may not be the best method.

If you are growing summer color plants in containers, it will be to your advantage to keep a water saucer under the pot. Pots will not dry out so 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.

- David Barkley

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

HOTLINE
MAY 2005

In July 2004, there were 133 calls to the Hotline. The breakdown of these calls is as follows:

General: 17. Questions about soil samples, their reports and fertilizer application were predominant.

Lawns: 32. The majority of the calls concerned problems with centipede, weeds and mold on lawns.

Trees: 33. The calls were about problems on numerous varieties of trees, including Leland cypress, dogwood, redbud and fruit trees. However, oak and pine trees had the most calls.

Shrubs: 2. Calls were received about gardenia and holly.

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

Vegetables: 19. Tomato problems had the most calls, with peppers and cucumbers also receiving several questions.

Flowers: 5. 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.

Notes from Kathy Walters

Please verify clients' addresses for mailing information – mail is sometimes returned due to incomplete/inaccurate addresses – often because clients provide the address for the second home at the coast and it doesn't have a mailbox. So, be sure to repeat the mailing address to the client when they request information – this should cut down on returned mail and allow clients to receive their information in a timely manner. Thanks for your efforts!

Periodically, Kathy organizes "bookmarks /favorites" on the MG computer. "E-Answers" is included and listed at the beginning of the index. This is a searchable website that provides reliable, research-based information on a variety of topics, a most useful resource, and it should be one of the first you use if you can't locate info in the MG files.

The "homepage" on the MG computer is set for the "intranet" page of the NC Cooperative Extension Service rather than the "public" page. (The public page is listed as a "favorite.") The intranet page of the Cooperative Extension Service provides more selections to assist Master Gardener Volunteers.

The Master Gardener News Columns, beginning with January 10, 2000, can be accessed through the Brunswick County Center of the NC Cooperative Extension Service website (<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick>). In addition, printed copies are in a notebook (Master Gardener Judy Koehly organizes the columns by subject).

A special note for new Master Gardeners and a reminder to others: The Brunswick County Extension Master Gardener Office Manual (yellow label) compiled by Kathy was developed to assist Master Gardeners while they staff the Hot Line. The notebook contains a listing of staff and staff member responsibilities, web page information, association bylaws/membership, logo, telephone system and computer usage guidelines, and sections on plant disease and insect clinic, soil testing, nematode assay, solution analyses, waste analyses, diagnostic soil test, and plant tissue analyses with fees, appropriate forms to be used, analyses overviews, etc., for each of these. Be sure to browse through the notebook when you're in the Master Gardener office.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Gardening Tips for July

from David Barkley

- Irrigate warm season grasses as needed. Most lawns will need 1 and ½ inches of water each week, best applied all at one time or split into two ¾" applications several days apart.
- Watch for chinch bugs in St. Augustinegrass and be prepared to apply Talstar to control them.
- Weeds are really adaptive to the harsh conditions that prevail in the summertime. Check on your weed population, get the weeds identified, and control with the appropriate weed control product. The best weed control strategy is to have a well established lawn which prevents weeds from establishing.
- Fertilize the warm season grasses with 1/2 to 1 pound of actual nitrogen for our area (except for Centipedegrass).
- Continue to mow at the proper heights for the various grasses.

Centipedegrass	1.0 - 1.5"
St Augustinegrass	2.5 - 3.0"
Bermudagrass	.75 - 1.25"
Zoysiagrass	.75 - 1.0"
Tall Fescue	3.5 - 4.0"
- Watch for mole cricket activity - small tunnels at the soil surface. Merit is usually applied for mole cricket control in late May and followed up with an application of Talstar or around the first of July.

Crape myrtles

Crape myrtles are some of North Carolina's favorite summer landscape trees. They provide great color and interest in the landscape and they are also adaptable to numerous stressful landscape situations. Several tips to consider for enhancing their performance are:

- Take care of Japanese beetle problems immediately. Use appropriate insecticides (Sevin, Talstar, Orthene, or Malathion) to control the generous population of beetles.
- As the flowers begin to fade, keep the limbs trimmed back. You will also notice that many of the limbs will be drooping under the heavy load of blooms. They should be trimmed periodically to maintain an upright form.

- Now is a good time to prune lower growing branches back to enhance the tree form of the plant. Stored energy reserves are low at this time and new growth will be minimized.
- 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.

Boxwoods

Boxwoods are great landscape plants, especially if they are planted correctly and given routine maintenance. Designers find them very helpful in solving design problems. This is the time of year to address possible insect infestations.

The four insects which can cause damage are boxwood leaf miner, psyllid, mite and Japanese wax scale. The most destructive pest is the boxwood leaf miner. The larvae feed on the tissues between the outer surfaces of the leaves all summer. This results in blotch shaped mines on the foliage. The infested leaves appear blistered from late summer through the following spring.

By fall you can expect premature leaf drop. The insecticides recommended to control leaf miners are Malathion, Merit and Orthene.

The boxwood psyllid causes a characteristic cupping of the leaves followed by a general grayish, dingy, unhealthy appearance. Japanese boxwoods are the least susceptible to this mite. Control with Dimethoate or Malathion.

A severe infestation of Japanese wax scale detracts from the overall appearance because of the numerous white scales and honeydew that is excreted causing a black fungus called sooty mold. Horticultural oil sprays will control wax scales.

Old, established plantings can have a multitude of problems. Aside from the insects and diseases associated with old plantings, one needs to evaluate the overall health, size and shape of the planting. As boxwoods get older, especially American Boxwood, they can get rather large.

Severe pruning on an unhealthy, non-vigorous plant can destroy it and recovery may be slow (death may result) after severe pruning.

“A weed is but an unloved flower.”
- Ella Wilcox

We've Accomplished Much This Past Year

Sometimes when we are involved in our part of things, we don't realize how much is accomplished by the entire group. The Recognition Dinner is our opportunity to acknowledge the efforts everyone puts forth throughout the year. As you can see from the lists below, we did well this year. These are all the Master Gardeners who received an award for service or learning at this year's dinner. Congratulations to every one of you!

5-YEAR PINS – 16 (Class of 2000)

Carol Botnick
Eph Botnick
Patty Burns
Alan Fitzgibbon
Charlie Giordano

Ron Gooding
Ken Hunter
Nancy Lehto
Ken Morris
Joan Morrison
Russ Morrison

Tom Pezanowski
Al Powell
Catherine Smith
John Sullivan
Ed Wagner

10-YEAR PINS – 2 (Class of 1995)

Bernie Spalding
Joy Turner

250 HOURS (certificate, hours pin, watering can pin)

Class of 2003
Arlene Hubner
Bob Montgomery

Class of 2004
Richard Boland

1,000 HOURS (certificate & hours pin)

Class of 2003
Hilton Holcomb

3,000 HOURS (certificate & hours pin)

Class of 1995
Bernie Spalding

Class of 2001
Ash Tyler

Why not sign up to provide refreshments for one of the monthly meetings?
Let Charlie know if you'd like to volunteer. Thanks.

2005 Master Gardener Class – 39 (in recognition of completing the classroom portion requirements for the Brunswick County Extension Master Gardener Program)

Chris Adams
Heather Adams
LaDonna Ball
Anne Marie Bellamy
Jan Biro
Joan Buckley
Tony Buckley
Paul Carson
Dick Chadwick
Mary Ellen Clagett
Victoria Compton
Kim Cooke
Jan Denney

Bill Fassbender
Bill Finley
Sue Fogle
Maryanne French
Dick Geiger
June Hall
Judy Hilinski
John Howard
Ellen Jones
Barbara Kassler
Vicki Kleutghen
Sandy Krasnow
Roe Lamprecht

James Malloy
Don McGregor
Tim Metcalfe
Dawson Price
Gretchen Price
Thresa Saunders
Cheryll Shuford
Lee Stead
Allen Todd
Carol Weaver
Harry Welsh
Carla Wilson
Grace Wrigley

2004 Master Gardener Class – 25 (in recognition of completing all requirements for the Brunswick County Extension Master Gardener Program)

Richard Boland
Al Bowers
Ann Duke
Becky Dus
Nancy Einbinder
Karen Fort
Joe Gagliano
Lourdes Garcia-Levis

Anita Handler
Herb Harris
Jimmi Hodgin
Lew Joesten
Carol Lindquist
Dominique Loewenstein
Barbara McCoy
Fred Mina
Lisa Miner

Reuben Moore
George Patterson
Sheila Peluso
Cathie Rod
Linda Rudick
Lynn Schwartzkopf
Gary Thomas
Judy Welborn

Advanced Extension Master Gardener Class (in recognition of completing the Advanced Extension Master Gardener Certification—Plant Identification)

Richard Boland
Ann Duke
Anita Handler

Dominique Loewenstein
Carol Lohman
Jack Lohman
Barbara McCoy

Fred Mina
Lynn Schwartzkopf
Gary Thomas

Advanced Extension Master Gardener Class (in recognition of completing the Advanced Extension Master Gardener Certification—Turfgrass)

Richard Boland
Bill Dinsdale
Hilton Holcomb

Roger Lavallee
Carol Lohman
Jack Lohman
Barbara McCoy

Tom Pezanowski
Charlie Spencer
Gary Thomas

Charlie Says...

1. Call Charlie after July 10 if you are interested in a trip to the daylily farm to see daylily rebloomers. If there is enough interest, he will schedule a trip the following week. Let Charlie know by July 14.
2. We recently finished a couple of youth horticulture classes for Boiling Spring Lakes. Thanks for the help go to Patty Burns, Nancy Einbinder and Cheryl Shuford. Nancy and Cheryl conducted two different class groups.
3. We will start a new series of youth programs working with Lindsey Wescot, new 4-H Program Assistant. The first one is on July 21 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for 5-10 year olds, and the second one is on July 22 for 11-19 year olds. Subjects will be Farm Economics, Plant Propagation and Plant Usage. After classroom instruction and lunch – they will bring their own – we will go to the greenhouse for hands-on work. **If you are interested in working with the kids, please contact Charlie.**

Thanks to everyone for all your help. You are the reason this organization does such a wonderful job on everything that is accomplished.

Meetings!

General meetings - 9 AM - July 28, August 25, September 22

Board meetings - 9 AM – July 19, August 16, September 13

Don't Miss the July 28 General Meeting!

Dr. Frank Blazich will conduct a seminar on plant propagation following the monthly MG meeting, from 10 a.m. to noon. We will invite the public and snacks will be included. After the public has left, we will cook on our new grill and have lunch for the Master Gardeners.

Please call and let us know if you plan to attend.

Dr. Frank will work with us at the greenhouse Thursday afternoon and most of the day Friday for a hands-on workshop. He is one of the foremost experts on plant propagation. There is no charge to Master Gardeners. This should prove to be one of the highlights of the year. Don't miss this.