



Brunswick County Master Gardener  
Volunteer Association

# NEWSLETTER

June 2006

[Bryce Lane](#) ...was a terrific speaker – he was a lot of fun, very informative and very interesting – he brought a lot of plants and some pots and soil and gave us a great demo on container gardening. And we had a full house for him – it was good to see so many MGs come out for this program.

David Barkley and Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman have the following programs lined up for the rest of the year:

**June 22** – Dr. Jeannie Davis, Associate Professor, Extension Specialist, Horticulture Science. Her subject will be Herbs and Other Interesting Specialty Crops for North Carolina.

**July 27** – David Nash, Area Specialized Agent, Coastal Management, New Hanover County, will give an overview of the dunes and dune vegetation in Brunswick County. He has co-authored a book on this subject.

**August 24** – Dr. Kenneth Sorensen, Professor, Entomology, NCSU, will give a PowerPoint presentation with posters and handouts on Fruit and Vegetable Pests Around the Home and Their Management.

**September 28** – Don Gilbert will talk about Hydroponically Grown Fruits and Vegetables.

On **October 26**, we will hear from Rick Morris re Soil Science and on **November 30**, Ozzie Coor will discuss Native Plants.

If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics, please let David or Shirley know. Let's keep these great programs coming!

---

## UPCOMING DATES:

- Our **Recognition Banquet** is June 20. This is our opportunity to honor the new class of Master Gardeners and those who took advanced classes and to relax and visit with each other. Invitations should be going out soon.
- If you want to join Charlie and others for a visit to the daylily farm on June 13, let Charlie know ASAP. See page 3 for more about this trip.
- Don't forget the Pond Tour on June 10.

When I was young, I dreamed of being somebody special. Now I realize I should have been more specific.

**Items of Interest from Charlie:** Some of the questions asked by previous members of past Master Gardener classes are presented below. Hope they will answer some of yours. If not, ask Charlie and he will try to help.

Hot Line Time:

As you know, we request that new Master Gardeners volunteer at least 40 hours during the next 12 month time period (June 2006 – June 2007). This is a little over three hours per month. Hopefully, you will volunteer more than the minimum required. The first year, we request that the 40 hours be accomplished on the Hot Line. This will enhance your knowledge as well as assist the residents of Brunswick County. Allow me to explain what the term “Hot Line” entails. First and foremost, it means that you are meeting the public and offering assistance. With this in mind, answering questions in the “Hot Line” office, whether it’s on the phone, walk-in traffic, or E-mail is “Hot Line Time.”

The second year, the requirement changes to 20 hours “Hot Line” time and 20 hours on any other Master Gardener projects, for again a total of 40 hours minimum. To be certified as a Master Gardener, you must complete the minimum number of hours (40 hours) each year. The Class of 2006 will receive their certification in June 2007, assuming the 40 hour “Hot Line” requirement is met. See David or Charlie for any deviations (sickness, home problems, etc.).

Training for the “Hot Line”:

We will attempt to assign you a mentor. This is not always possible. The most important thing to remember is to call me at 253-2610 so we can set up a time for your first two sessions on the “Hot Line.” I always want to be with you on your first two trips for purposes of continuity. Please read your handout on “Hot Line” operation.

(Continued on Page 3.)

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

Linda Lemieux

[rellgl@aol.com](mailto:rellgl@aol.com)

910-253-4245

Volunteer chairs:

Recording Secretary

Cathie Rod

[csrod@ec.rr.com](mailto:csrod@ec.rr.com)

910-457-5091

Corresponding Secretary/Library

Peggy Meinzer

[pmeinzer@lockwoodfolly.net](mailto:pmeinzer@lockwoodfolly.net)

910-842-4928

MG Coordinator - Coop. Extension

Charlie Spencer

[Charlie\\_spencer@ncse.edu](mailto:Charlie_spencer@ncse.edu)

910-383-6432

NCMGVA Liaison

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

[shirley312@webtv.net](mailto:shirley312@webtv.net)

910-754-4148

Newsletter Editor

Becky Dus

[rcd@nfcexperts.com](mailto:rcd@nfcexperts.com)

910-253-8937

Restitution & Greenhouse

Ash Tyler

[at Tyler@ec.rr.com](mailto:at Tyler@ec.rr.com)

910-278-6101

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

Ann Duke

[wduke1@ec.rr.com](mailto:wduke1@ec.rr.com)

910-454-0413

Webmaster

Lisa Miner

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

**Let's welcome Carol Wilson, who is transferring to Brunswick County Master Gardeners from New Hanover County.**

## Charlie's "Items" Cont'd:

### Dues:

The next question is about dues. As new members, we do not require you to pay dues until January 2007. However, your \$5.00 (five dollars) dues are payable by **January 1, 2007**. I suggest you splurge and give \$10.00 (ten dollars) and that way you don't have to worry about it for two years.

Finally, remember you do not have to join the MG Association to be a Master Gardener (but the Association sure *wants* you to join us and participate in all our programs and services).

Does this clear up all your questions re: what it takes to maintain your Master Gardener status? If not, let Charlie know and we'll add clarifications in future editions of the newsletter.

## More From Charlie:

I didn't have the opportunity to really thank all the folks involved in the Supply School project. Everyone involved seemed to think that it was an outstanding success. Special thanks go to **Nancy Einbinder** for all the extra efforts that she put forth to insure success. She was the glue that held the whole thing together. This effort is what the Master Gardener Program is all about.

We're planning a trip to the **Marietta Daylily Gardens** on June 13th. I can take 11 people with me in the Extension van. It's about one and a half hours from here. If you are interested, call and let me know. We will leave here at 7:30 and can pick up some folks at the McDonalds on State Road 904 and US 17 about 8:00. It is a great trip and the owners like us. You will never find better buys on daylilies. If you can drive, it leaves lots more room for your daylilies! They really take good care of us.

Please help welcome the new Master Gardener class as they pitch in to help us. Most of them have already joined us in our plant sales, etc.; now

let's give them some help on the Hot Line. We are trying to develop a "Mentoring Program" to help our new members further. If you can help, please let me or David know.

Please read the updated info above on the volunteer hours required to maintain your status as a Master Gardener. It also contains info on the annual dues required to belong to the MG Association.

I know this is a busy time of the year for all of us. We can use any help on the Hot Line and all the other activities that we do. So any help that you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for everything that you all do. This is a great program and it can only happen as a result of each and everyone's efforts. Give yourself a great big pat on the back!

## Gardening Tips for June

-From David Barkley

### Inquiring Gardeners Want To Know... WHAT ARE SOME GOOD SUMMER WATERING PRACTICES FOR THE LANDSCAPE?

One of the first signs of drought stress in ornamentals and turf is wilting. 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. We've already experienced dry periods in much of NC in April and May. Daily wilting of many spring-planted ornamentals has already occurred. These plants will be wilted by mid-afternoon on a hot day, but will be completely recovered the next morning after a soaking with the garden hose. An extended period without extra moisture and this temporary wilting can

become a permanent, non-reversible situation.

This is known as permanent wilting point, and the next step is to remove a dead plant! Leaves wither, and remain on the plant or drop completely. Twig and stem dieback will follow.

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.

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 we all know that a lot of water is wasted when it is applied this way. Many home gardeners are not patient enough to apply enough water to each plant in order to relieve drought stress. Turn the water on very low and when runoff begins, go to the next plant. When you've finished watering all the individual plants, go back and repeat the process. The additional water will soak in much better this time.

The same strategy is true for the sprinklers. Turn water on and when runoff occurs, move it to another location. Repeat the watering to really saturate the soil.

Remember to build an earthen saucer around individual trees and shrubs to act as a dam for hose applied water. This will reduce the amount of runoff, and also be a much faster way to hand irrigate. Be sure to have a 3"-4" layer of organic mulch on the beds and if you haven't tried it yet, buy a roll of landscape fabric and install it around trees and in beds. This will not only conserve moisture but will also discourage weeds. If you are growing summer color plants in containers, it will be to

your advantage...and the plants'...to keep a water saucer under the pot. Pots will not dry out so quickly

## JUNE GARDEN CHORES

- Powdery mildew on Crapemyrtles: If you have been paying close attention to your crapemyrtle foliage lately, you've probably noticed that the disease has already started. According to the 2006 Ag. Chemicals Manual, Banner 14.3% or Bayleton 25W are the recommended fungicides. Spraying a few times or seeing the results of doing nothing will make you a true believer in using resistant cultivars. The following are resistant: 'Biloxi,' 'Byers Standard Red,' 'Byers Wonderful White,' 'Miami,' 'Osage,' 'Seminole,' 'Tuscarora,' 'Tuskegee,' 'Yuma' and 'Zuni.'

'Lagerstroemia faurei' is also becoming a popular choice as a mildew resistant crapemyrtle. 'Carolina Beauty' and 'Potomac' are two very popular cultivars that are susceptible to powdery mildew.

- What are your landscape plants telling you? Now is a good time to stroll around the landscape and be observant. Look at the new growth on the trees and shrubs. There should be several inches on the ends of the branches. (The new growth generally follows flowering on spring flowering plants.) This growth is an "indicator of progress." Also look at the tops of old shade trees in the yard. There should be foliage all the way to the tips. If the ends are bare, there may be some future, serious problems.
- Groundcovers should be in a full growth period. New growth should be apparent on lirioppe, English ivy, periwinkle and pachysandra. If new growth from this spring season is not visible, or if it is less than normal, then investigate the problem...environmental stress, poor

drainage, low nutrient availability, pH problem, construction damage to the root zone area or possible chemical injury. Be sure to check for insects. Aphids, mites and scales are serious problems.

- Summer Bedding Plants: Finish planting summer color beds. Don't take any short-cuts in the soil preparation stage. In order to maximize top growth and flowering performance, there has to be good root establishment and growth. This will only occur in well tilled, organically amended beds.
- Include Horticulture with the 2006 vacation: As you are taking vacations and traveling this summer, be sure to take time to drop in on a new garden center, nursery, botanical garden or arboretum. It's always a good place to get ideas for upcoming programs, or seeing something to share with others.
- *June Pruning Tips:* The appearance of many shrubs can be improved with a general pruning at this time of year. With new growth averaging 6"-8" long, many evergreens are getting slightly out-of-bounds. Now is a good time to take hand pruners and shape them up. This shaping is difficult to do with electric or manual shears. Individual branches and stems need to be cut...back inside the plant. This will reduce the overall size of the plant and also reshape it. Shears basically cut on one plane, giving that flat outer shape. It will take a lot longer, but the immediate look and subsequent growth will be worth the trouble. Formal hedges, "bowling balls" and "boxes" can continue to be sheared.

If the shrubs have turned into small trees over the years, now would be an appropriate time to get the big saw out and take them back to 12"-15" stems. The other professional approach is to limb up from the ground and accentuate the "tree look."

If all else fails....remove the entire plant and start over again. Before replanting, evaluate the space to determine what type of plant, if

any, is needed. This is often the best solution to overgrown plants.

- Compost Use: With all the effort you've gone through since last fall, it should be time to utilize the fruits of your labor (and garbage you've been saving). A properly functioning compost bin should be about "done" by now. Refer to one of the many information resources on Backyard Composting from the Horticulture Department if you need more information.

### **Azalea Care**

Azaleas require little, if any pruning. The best time to prune is after flowering and before bud initiation in mid-summer. Now is a good time to shape, or even rejuvenate.

Inspect for the following disease problems: Botrytis Petal Blight, Die Back, Leaf Gall, Leaf Rust, Mildew, Petal Blight, Phomopsis Die-back and Phytophthora Root Rot. Also, inspect for the following insect problems: Caterpillars, Lace bug, Leaf Miner, Mites, Scales, Stem borers, Weevils and Whitefly.

Most azaleas are easily propagated from cuttings taken after the new growth is 4"-6" in length. This is usually performed in early to mid summer.

Keep azalea beds mulched with 4-6 inches of compost or other organic matter. Don't use materials that crust over (sawdust). Weed control is necessary throughout the year. If you use contact herbicides, be certain to shield the foliage as you spray.

---

**Can you help with the set-up for the Recognition Banquet on June 20? If so, let Charlie or Anne Duke know.**

**Also, keep the Garden Work Teams in mind – if you can join us on the first or third Monday or second Tuesday of the month, your help would be much appreciated.**

---

“There is a fine line between ignorance and good horticulture.”  
- Bryce Lane, talking about the sometimes serendipitous good results we get in our gardens.

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

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



Postage stamp

First Class Mail