



Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

June 2007

Upcoming Events...

June 14th, annual Marietta Day Lilly Trip

June 28 Regular Meeting guest speaker,
Lucy Bradley- NCSU

June 28 Recognition Luncheon after the
regular meeting

Oct 8,9,10th State MG Conference in
Raleigh

Oct 10, 11, 12, 2007 Fall plant sale

December 13 Holiday Party

Upcoming Speakers

June 28th Lucy Bradley

July 26th Bill Lord - Water Quality – Area
Specialized Agent, Franklin Co.

Sept. 27th Some type of MG Social

Oct. 25th Toby Bost, Hort Agent, Forsyth
County - Has written books on gardening.

Nov 29th Dick Bir - Retired - worked at
Fletcher Research Station in Fletcher NC.

Charlie Spencer

Some **Master Gardener Greenhouse Aprons** are **missing** if you have one please return it. Thanks to everyone for all their help on the plant sales. The new classes were unbelievably helpful and much appreciated.

Marietta Day Lilly trip on June 14th, van will leave Extension Office at approx 8:00AM.

Al Hight, Co. Extension Director -

spoke about a newsletter based on the area comprised of Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties that is being created. The newsletter will be similar to the Successful Gardener but directed specifically towards our three county area and costal gardening.

New Storage Building Approved

A new storage building and cement pad are now in our future plans in the greenhouse area. The irrigation is now in place, so no more hand watering. Hurray! . Ash advised electrical hook up is still to be completed.

Hilton Holcomb, Gardens - We need help in the gardens, there is a tremendous amount of work required to maintain them . Need to weed and there is mulch to spread. Fountain to left of office entrance is completed. Work Days are 1st Monday and 3rd Tuesday.

Ash Tyler, Greenhouse Needs help repotting every Thursday 800 am except 4th Thursday of month or See Ash if you can work other days.

Beacon To Carry Extension Page

Brunswick Beacon will have a weekly Extension page. First was Thursday May17 This will enable the Extension office to publicize our classes and various events through out the county. Al Hight is also working to have a similar format with the Southport Pilot, the LA Reporter (Leland) and the Sun Times (Northern Edition).

Will we see you at the May Meeting on the 28th ?

New book purchased for the library - *Garden Insects of North America The Ultimate Guide to Back Yard Bugs.*

Plants Sales are Big Success thanks to all who helped and especially our newest classes.

Automation Committee

Al Smith stated the web calendar has been updated to include all events of the BCMGVA. Anyone wishing to add information should e-mail Joe Loughlin. The web pages are also being updated and if anyone would like to volunteer their help with this see Al or Joe.

Wanted: *Master Gardeners with expertise in creating web pages. We are trying to bring information to you more efficiently. Call Al Smith 910-457-667if you could help.*

For the Most Current Info...

Our website (<http://bcmastergardener.org/>) has a calendar that is now being updated regularly. Check it out and be a member that knows what is going on. Better yet, if you know of an event you feel our members would be interested in, email me and I will post them. jloughlin@ec.rr.com

Got Ground Pearl?

David Barkley, Hort Agent: Peter Hertyl NC. Crops Department – is continuing his study and research on ground pearl and is asking for help from BCMGVA members. He will train volunteers on all aspects of gathering information.

Come see the New Fountain in the Connector Garden

We are making a tropical garden to surround this beautiful new addition. Palms and exotic plants are filling the space. The fountain will be lighted and make a dramatic focus. Come help us!

Charlie will once again take us to the Marietta Day Lilly Farm. It's a short trip and beautiful site. Call Charlie to reserve your spot.

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How To Plant Your Garden

First, you Come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses....

For the Garden of your Daily Living,
Plant Three Rows of Peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

No Garden is Without Turnips

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To Conclude our Garden We Must Have
Thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water Freely with Patience & Cultivate with
Love. There will be Much Fruit in your
Garden because You Reap as You Sow.

Have you paid your Dues? They're only
\$5/yr. Why not pay for several years at once
and forget about it for a while?

Joe's Kitchen

Here is a timely recipe sent to me by Sue
Fogle. Pasta with Asparagus-Lemon Sauce

1 lb fresh, medium thickness asparagus

1 teaspoon finely grated fresh lemon zest

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1 pound penne, malfade, or
preferred shape & 1/2 cup grated
Parmigiano-Reggiano



Cut asparagus into 1-inch
pieces; reserve tips
separately. Cook asparagus
stems in 5 to 6 quarts boiling
water with 2 tablespoons salt
until very tender, 6 to 8 minutes.

Transfer with a slotted spoon to a colander,
reserving cooking water in pot, and rinse
under cold water. Drain asparagus well and
transfer to a food processor or
blender. Cook asparagus tips in same
boiling water until just tender, 3 to 5
minutes. Transfer with slotted spoon to
colander, reserving boiling water in pot, and
rinse under cold water. Puree asparagus
stems with zest, oil, and 1/2 cup asparagus
cooking water. Transfer sauce to a 4-quart
saucepan. Cook pasta in boiling asparagus
cooking water for about three-fourths of the
recommended cooking time (very al dente).
Reserve 2 cups cooking water and drain
pasta.

Add pasta, asparagus tips, and 1/2 cup
reserved water to asparagus sauce and
cook over high heat, stirring, 3 to 5 minutes,
or until pasta is almost al dente and sauce
coats pasta. Add more cooking water, 1/4
cup at a time, until sauce coats pasta but is
a little loose (the cheese will thicken it
slightly). Stir in Parmigiano-Reggiano and
salt and pepper, to taste and cook, stirring,
until cheese is melted. Serve immediately.
Sue tops it with sautéed mushrooms &
chicken strips and serves with a chilled
white wine. Sounds Great!

Garden Tips and Greetings to You!

David Barkley
June 2007

Inquiring Gardeners Want To Know...

QUESTION? My azaleas just are not doing well. They have weak anemic leaves and they don't seem to be growing well. What can I do to help them perform better?

Now is a good time to judge how your azaleas and for that matter any other of your landscape plants performed this spring. If the blooms were beautiful and the foliage dense then the particular plant is probably in good condition. Keep doing what you're doing and use the "if it's not broken..." philosophy. If they were not up to par, then consider the following:

Azaleas need good soil drainage for the root system. Be sure the roots are not in saturated soils for long periods of time. Transplant, if necessary, into a raised or mounded system. Don't delay.

If you have newly planted or transplanted azaleas, be sure to keep them watered during dry periods. We had some mixed up weather this spring with cool periods, dry to very dry and hot conditions. Most all plants appreciate a break from hot and dry conditions so, providing them with some water will help. Newly planted shrubs in raised beds will probably need watering 2-3 times a week during the summer. Consider a soaker hose for water efficiency.

Build a soil or mulch water retention ring around the plants. This will allow irrigation water to soak the rootzone area, especially if they are planted high. A soil high in organic matter supplemented with organic mulch is more important to good azalea

growth than fertilizer. To maintain available iron, soils should be in the pH range of 4.5-6.0. Use lime if the pH is below 3.0. Gypsum is a good source of calcium, which is necessary for good growth, and will not affect the pH. A slow release fertilizer program is recommended for summer growing needs. Now is a good time to apply.

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.

Wildflowers

By Master Gardener Ford Balch 1-07

*Prodigious beauties,
jewels of the fields,
Brightly colored blooms
for our delight,
Created by God: they self-
propagate seeds,
Returning each year for us to walk by.*



*With nectar provided for bees and butterflies,
Who inadvertently cross-pollinate while they feed,*

Honeycombs will be found in the fall; God looking down Must be proud of his Garden of Adam and Eve.

Bluettes bloom in the spring much to a small child's ecstasy, Awakened from dormancy buds and growth re-appear, Our spirits soar this season of re-birth and innocence, God must be satisfied with all that he sees and hears.

This summer we will enter field and forest once again, Looking for old friends whose presence we anticipate, Daisies and Black-EyeD-Susan's delight the way to the stonewall, where red blossoms of fireweed are belied by their ignoble name.

We enter a woodland road interspersed with springs, To walk beside lady slippers-Adirondack Orchids Crowns slightly bent unaffected by their glory, They are difficult to find and a treasure indeed.

Returning, we pass by invasive Purple Loosestrife, Gently waving in breezes we feel compelled to stop, Enchanted for we seem to hear the Siren's song, Refusing submission we leave them to go on.

There are many old favorites to revisit and admire, Some by the river stream and some in the shade, Some new encounters that we will struggle to name, With a child's spirit we kneel in the garden God made.

GARDEN CHORES for June

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 2007 Ag. Chemicals Manual, Banner MAXX or Bayleton are the recommended fungicides. Consider using resistant cultivars. The following are resistant; "Biloxi", "Byers Standard Red", "Byers Wonderful White", "Miami", "Osage", "Seminole", "Tuscarora", "Tuskegee", "Yuma" and "Zuni".

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

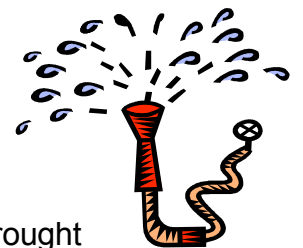
should be several inches on the ends of the branches. (The new growth generally follows flowering, on spring flowering plants.) This growth is an "indicator of progress". Also look at the tops of old shade trees in the yard. There should be foliage all the way to the tips. If the ends are bare, there 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 is less than normal, then investigate the problem....environmental stress, poor drainage, low nutrient availability, pH problem, construction damage to the rootzone 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 shortcuts 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.

SUMMER WATERING PRACTICES IN 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.

Clethra...an Underused Native

Summersweets (*Clethra alnifolia*) - The most widely available Clethras in the nursery trade are the true summersweets, *Clethra alnifolia*. I have seen them doing well in Massachusetts as well in southern Georgia, in full sun or partial shade. However, the best looking plants always seemed to have a little shade. This mid-summer blooming deciduous shrub will range in height from 3 to about 8 feet tall and nearly as wide. In dry sites they tend to be well-behaved and rarely grow beyond my eye level. However, in soils that are consistently moist, the summersweets are a taller suckering shrub with a tendency to spread. Nevertheless, how many other shrubs are there that will grow in soggy soils, have a months long flowering period in mid-summer, delightful fragrance and attract numerous pollinating critters?

2007 Dues Notice

Dues are payable by January 1 each year.

(But we will accept them now!)

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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