



Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter June, 2008

Upcoming Events...

June 18-21st Southern Region Master Gardener Conference

June 26th Recognition Luncheon

Oct 5-8 2008 MG Conference in Brunswick County

Dec 10th Christmas Party

Upcoming Speakers

June 26th Frank Galloway - Plants for local use

July 24th Dr. Frank Blazich - NCSU - Summer Propagation

Aug 28th Charlotte Glen - Plants for difficult situations

Sept. 25th Ronda Sherman - Vermicomposting

Oct 23rd Toby Bost

Nov. 20th updates by horticulture staff

2008 Conference Report

With the cost of printing and mailing for the 2008 State Convention, the conference committee has requested that all Master Gardeners who plan to attend the conference please pay your registration fee now to help us out. The normal refund policy applies. The registration fee for the conference is 130.00 dollars if you are a Master Gardener State member, or 135.00 dollars which includes 5.00 dollars for 6 months of state dues, or 145.00 dollars which includes this year's dues as well as next year's state dues. The cost of printing and mailing over 4000 invitations exceeds the money available at this time and we need your support so that we can get the word out to invitees about this exceptional conference. Remember, the Brunswick

Master Gardeners share in the profit of the conference!

There will be 24 different workshops so there will be something for everyone. When you receive your official package, there may be some trips etc that you want to sign up for that will have an additional cost. You can pay those costs at that time.

Help us make this the best conference ever by signing up.

We also need your help. If you are not already on a committee, email me or call me about helping. If you're on a committee, be sure your committee is moving forward with their work. There is a lot to do and October will be here sooner than we think.

Shirley

Greenhouse/Restitution, Ash Tyler:

The new cover and exhaust fans for the greenhouse are ready to be installed. Ash mentioned the state might drop the Restitution program next year due to considerable budget reductions but he is hopeful the program won't be cut. Sales for the May plant sale were \$8,886 with \$4,900 in expenses.

Banquets/Parties, Becky Dus:

The Recognition Banquet date has been changed to June 26th which is the same day as the June general meeting.

"Growing Together" is now our newsletter's name!

Will we see you at the June Meeting on the 26th at 9:00 am ?

From the Presidents Desk ...

Thank you to all who continue to attend the membership meetings. Mark your calendar for the June meeting as our speaker will be Frank Galloway. Some of the new classes have been attending the membership meeting we encourage more of you to attend.

Very shortly I will be looking more volunteers for the conference hope we can count on you.

Our dues year is from January thru December. If you are not sure you have paid this year's dues check with Al Smith. He will have a record of dues payments. Only dues paying members may hold office or vote at Association meetings

Charlie says:

Pick up Your Membership Card!

If you are an active Master Gardener belonging to the Association, your membership cards are at the front desk. Please see Betty and pick up your card.



I will be on vacation from May 31st until June

18th. David will also be gone a lot of the time. As a result, you are really needed on the Hot Line. Please try and fit the Hot Line into your schedule until I get back. I will be training the new class members as soon as I return. Until then, please come as much as you can. We have a great reputation for assisting folks and we sure don't want to see that go down the drain.

Rain Barrels are available for anyone interested. We will sell them ready to go for \$50.00 each.

Hardscape, Fred Mina needs some carpenter helpers! He will be building a new shed in June. Please let him know when you can help.

Al Hight and Kelly from Holden Brothers are doing a research project on trapping and counting moths and volunteers are needed to help out.

Hort Agent, David Barkley indicated that the new MG classes are completed. He is still working with the Advanced Landscaping class and we will hopefully be seeing some new additions to our garden. Maggie Hoon will be cutting new identification labels for the plants in the gardens.

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Joe's Kitchen



I started a conversation with a very successful spear fisherman last week who was cleaning a huge pile of groupers. Before I knew it, he handed me six – seven pounds of filets. Not believing my luck, I invited some friends over for;

Grouper on the Grill

1/4 cup lime juice, pineapple juice, or mango juice

2 clove garlic, finely minced

2 tablespoon freshly grated ginger

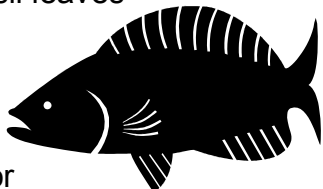
4 tablespoon honey

2 tablespoon of fresh oregano leaves

2 tablespoon of fresh basil leaves

1/4 cup of soy sauce

1/4 cup vegetable oil



Blend all but oil in a blender or food processor for 20 seconds. Add the oil and blend a few more seconds. Pour over fish in a plastic baggy and seal. Place in your refrig for about four hours turning occasionally to insure good coverage. Place on a hot grill and cook covered for about seven minutes per side. Only turn once or fish might begin to flake apart. Serve grouper with a mango salsa and grilled fresh pineapple slices.

Work Days

Please come and help us when you have time, but especially on the work days. June 15th and July 7th

Gardens: Jim Blake will direct your work.

Greenhouse: Tyler Ash always needs help weeding and getting plants ready for sale.

Meet a Master Gardener Grace Wrigley

I was born in Rockaway Beach, NY and soon after my birth, my family moved to Babylon,

Long Island NY. I have 2 sisters, both live in Hendersonville, NC and my oldest sister is also a Master Gardener. We have a daughter who's a Physician Assistant with the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and a son who's an Engineer in the process of moving from Ann Arbor, Michigan to a new job in the Seattle.

My favorite childhood memory was a yearly tulip parade held on Main Street in Babylon - with floats covered with tulips. The tulip and daffodil fields were eventually replaced by housing complexes and lead to the demise of the parade.

I graduated from West Babylon High School, the University of Rhode Island (BS - Math) and Stevens Institute of Technology (MS - Computer Science /EE).

At the age of 13, I started my own business with the help of my father, Attic Sails - making sails in our attic (if they fit) and doing repairs. I continued making and repairing sails through college and was also a sailing instructor at a yacht club. I was on the URI women's sailing team and was President of the New England Women's Sailing Association. After graduating from college, I worked at Bell Labs and continued a long career with the Bell System. In 1994, I was the lead person from Bellcore for the North Carolina Information Highway project for distance learning which is used today for some of the Master Gardener seminars. In 1999, I started my own consulting business.

My favorite activities are reading, gardening and traveling. I volunteer at the Rourk Library, am on our POA Board and Chair of the POA Landscape Committee. I'm the BCMGVA Vice President, co-registra/statistician for the 2008 MG Conference, have been MG librarian for the last 2 years, and worked with the K-1 classes for the Supply Elementary Projects (2 years).

Southern Region Master Gardener Conference - June 18-21, 2008 in Oklahoma – for detail check the website <http://www.mastergardener2008.com>

Annual Recognition Luncheon will be noon, June 26th after the regular meeting and Frank Galloway's program. Please bring a dish that will serve 8 folks. Names A-F, appetizers; G-K, Sandwiches; L-P, Salad; Q-Z Desserts. Beverage will be provided. You and your guest are cordially invited to attend the meeting, program, and/or Luncheon.

June 2007 Hotline Calls

There were 126 inquiries to the Hotline. The breakdown is as follows:

General: 25. 13 requested Newcomer packets and 12 requested soil sample kits and interpretation of analysis.

Lawns: 25. The majority of calls concerned

Centipede grass. The remainder concerned general questions about types of lawns for this area and weeds in the lawn.

Shrubs: 3. Gardenia, rose, and hydrangea were the shrubs that had problems.

Trees: 30. Dogwoods, crepe myrtle, and Leland cypress seemed to suffer the most problems since they had the most inquiries.

Oak's, Magnolia's, Hickories, and Cedars also gave problem to our callers.

Pests: 12. Callers wanted information on getting rid of various pests such as bees, fire ants Japanese Beetles, moles, etc.

Vegetables: 26. Tomato's had the most calls. Squash, cucumbers, potatoes and grapes were also subjects of interest.

Flowers: 6. Lantana were the main concern of the callers last year.



David Barkley

Extension Horticulture Agent
Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service

JUNE GARDEN CHORES

Crape Myrtle Care:

Insects - Some of the first wave of Japanese Beetles have already made their presence known and have been seen on some Crape Myrtles as well as some other popular landscape ornamentals. There are a number of pyrethrins which may be used to control Japanese Beetles. You may wish to check some of these out: Talstar, Decathlon, Astro and X-clude. Orthene, Sevin and Malathion may also be used. Be sure to follow label directions.

Diseases - If you have been paying close attention to your crape myrtle foliage lately, you've probably noticed that the disease has already started. According to the 2008 Agricultural Chemical Manual, Heritage 50W, Banner MAXX or Bayleton 50WSP are the recommended fungicides. Once you have had to deal with this problem you might consider the merits of using Powdery Mildew resistant varieties such as "Biloxi", "Miami", "Osage", "Seminole", "Tuscarora", "Tuskegee", "Yuma" and "Zuni". Lagerstroemia faurei is also becoming a popular choice as a mildew resistant crape myrtle. "Carolina Beauty" and "Potomac" are two very popular cultivars that are susceptible to powdery mildew.

Turfgrass continues to come out of winter dormancy and with the expected high temperatures in the forecast, this means the grasses will really take off. Be sure to sharpen the blades on your mowing equipment. If the blades are too dull the grass will have a uniform brownish-gray cast to it after mowing. Now is the time to fertilize your Centipedegrass.

Centipede prefers having just one application of fertilizer for the season and

June is the best month to fertilize Centipede. One recommendation is to apply 10 pounds of 5:5:15 fertilizer per 1000 square feet of turf area. If you have other products that you need to use then you could take the first number on the bag of fertilizer and divide it into 50 and that would tell you how many pounds of fertilizer to put out for the product you have or the product you are about to buy if you cannot find the 5:5:15.

Example #1 - for a bag of 8:8:8 fertilizer you would take the first number - (8) and divide it into 50 = 6.25 pounds of fertilizer to apply to 1000 square feet;

Example #2 - for a bag of 6:6:12 fertilizer you would take the first number - (6) and divide it into 50 = 8.33 pounds of fertilizer to apply to 1000 square feet.

Other turf grasses have different requirements. Please call your local County Extension Office and ask for the appropriate turf guide.



Groundcovers should be in a full growth period. New growth should be apparent on liriopse, English ivy, periwinkle and other types of groundcovers. If new growth from this spring season is not visible, or is less than normal, then investigate the problem. The problems may be due to environmental stress, poor drainage, low nutrient availability and 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 shortcuts in preparing the soil. 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 soils with

adequate amounts of organic matter in the beds.

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 type of 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 to hand prune instead of shearing, but the immediate look and subsequent growth will be worth the trouble. If the shrubs have turned into small trees over the years, now would be an appropriate time to get the big saw out and cut them back to 12-15" stems. They will look absolutely terrible until the end of the summer.

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.

Include Horticulture with the 2008 Vacation: Vacations and travel plans for this summer should include a stop to "smell the roses". 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 projects or seeing something to share with others.

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)

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