



Brunswick County Master Gardener  
Volunteer Association

# NEWSLETTER

March 2006

## THE SPEAKER AT OUR MARCH MEETING...

...will be **Dr. Tom Creswell**, Manager of the Plant Disease and Insect Clinic in the Plant Pathology Department at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. He will talk to us about "Ornamental Diseases Common to Our Area."

The meeting will be on **March 23 at 9 a.m.** The April meeting will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Lane Tredway, Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at NCSU will be there to tell us about the identification, management and control of turf diseases.

Shirley and David have been working hard to put together a great group of speakers and topics for our meetings. So be sure to put all these meetings on your schedule and come take advantage of these great opportunities to add to your gardening knowledge.

**Information on the State MG Conference** will soon be available on the NCMGVA web site – click under "Events" – [www.ncmastergardeners.org](http://www.ncmastergardeners.org). The conference is scheduled for October 2 - 4 in Kill Devil Hills. This conference will feature great speakers and workshops, plus pre-conference tours. Watch for your invitation packet this summer

## **WE'VE GOT PROJECTS!!!!**

Check out these great opportunities to get involved with our community and share your gardening know-how:

- **The Home and Garden Show** at West Brunswick High School on March 24-26. Let Richard know if you want to help out (579-5791 or [rboland@atmc.net](mailto:rboland@atmc.net))
- Our first **Plant Sale** of the year will be Thursday April 20 – Saturday April 22. Charlie's looking for volunteers.
- Hilton is looking for members to join the **Hardscape Team** – you don't need previous experience to participate in this group. A list of projects on the current To-Do List is on page 2. Let Hilton know if you're interested.
- The **Supply Middle School** program gets under way with the training session on March 2.
- We have had an inquiry from **Shalotte Middle School** about working with their students – watch for more news on this.
- Have also had an inquiry from Communities in Schools re: working with them. More info to come if this develops.

**If you haven't paid your dues by now, you are WAY overdue. Please see Linda Lemieux and keep your membership current.**

## *The Hardscape Team*

This promises to be a busy group with some interesting projects on the agenda. Here are some that are waiting for spring time and drier weather to get started:

1. Work on irrigation in the garden and around Building N.
2. Install drainage at the garden to include the center circle.
3. Modify the pump station doors, install drainage and complete path
4. Install terraces at rear of biofalls and repair steps up the bank.
5. Pressure clean, spray and waterproof the deck and walkways.
6. Plan and install drip irrigation for containers in front and rear of building.
7. Install a pathway to Building F.
8. Plan and install drainage at the greenhouse area.

*If you would like to join this team let Hilton know (575-4943; [hholcomb@atmc.net](mailto:hholcomb@atmc.net)).*

## Coastal Garden Seminar "Meeting Your Plants' Needs" March 31, 2006 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

David Hardy, NC Dept. of Agriculture Soils Lab, re soil samples, analysis, soil problems  
Dr. William Fonteno, Professor, Horticultural Science, NCSU, re: building urban soils  
And more to be announced.  
Call the Extension Office to register.

## 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

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

910-278-6101

Greenhouse

Ash Tyler

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

***Worry is the darkroom in which 'negatives' are developed.***

# HOTLINE NEWS FOR MAY

In March 2005, there were 190 calls to the Hotline. The breakdown of these calls is as follows:

**General:** 71. The majority were for requests for soil sample kits and Newcomer Packets. There were also calls re: fertilizers, MG classes and soil sample analysis interpretation. 15 'calls' resulted from the Leland seminar and 9 wanted bluebird house plans.

**Lawns:** 42. Five were for general lawn information; 21 centipede, 3 St. Augustine and remainder on lawn weeds.

**Trees:** 28. 8 calls were re: fruit tree problems; the rest were general in nature and included palms, was myrtle, oak, etc.

**Shrubs:** 23. Most were for oleander, hollies and gardenias. The rest were for various shrubs.

**Pests:** 5. The pests were moles and voles.

**Vegetables/Flowers:** 10. These were just general questions about a host of different plants, with 3 about grapes.

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 Charlie, David, Al or Matt, in that order, other problems to Dave or Charlie.

**The Coastal Garden Club has invited us to join them when they host Alessandro Tombelli** at their monthly meeting, at 1 p.m. on **March 20** at the Brunswick Electric Company in Supply. Alessandro has a vast resume of international garden restoration and design experience. He graduated with a degree in Horticulture from the National Horticultural Institute of Florence and has continued to expand his knowledge by attending The Royal Horticultural Society's Garden in Wisley, England, the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies in York, England and the Scuola Agraria di Monza in Milan, Italy. Alessandro is currently a garden consultant and advisor to many historic villas and estates across Europe. With his expert knowledge of horticulture, he has given lectures, consulted for a television program and currently organizes and leads Globalgardens tours. He is a member of both The Royal Horticultural Society and the British Professional Gardeners' Guild.

Space is limited – both in the meeting room and in the parking lot. We are limited to the first 40 people who sign up. **If you want to attend and hear this interesting speaker, call Bette at Extension (253-2610).** We will meet in the parking lot behind Extension and use the vans and carpool. There will be a \$3.50 fee at the door.

**It's time to beginning preparing for the April Plant Sale.** We need to plant seeds, repot, trim and prune and move plants around. Please come on in and help us get ready for the sale. Ash is here almost every morning and can show you what needs to be done. The plant sale is our primary fund raiser and there is a LOT to do. Call Charlie if you want to work in the afternoon and he will let you know what needs to be done.

**And This from Maggie:**

Hello, Everyone,

We are fast approaching the time of year when bulbs, perennials, shrubs and trees come to life and, wonder of wonder, millions of weeds. It is a favorite time for me and I hope for you as well. When you read this, it will be happening in our Botanical Garden. The garden is an ever-changing, ever-growing project.

I would like to invite any Master Gardeners to come and join one of our work teams. Right now we are working the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Each team works one time a month. Spring is a very busy time in the garden and greenhouse and we could use more help. We do weeding, light pruning, mulch spreading, planting, etc. Hilton and David Barkley check the garden to prepare our chore list and Davis is usually there to give direction. It is a great way to gain knowledge and meet some really neat people.

Also, Ash Tyler could use help in the greenhouse/hoop house. He is there almost every morning and would love the help. Remember our plant sale is our "Biggest Fundraiser" and it requires many work hours from many people. We hope everyone will participate in some capacity.

If you would like to help, please call Hilton Holcomb – 575-4943, Ash Tyler – 278-6101 or me -253-0195. We would love to have you join us!

Happy gardening,  
Maggie Hoon

**Chattanooga, TN** will host the **Southern Regional Master Gardener Conference** on June 8 thru 11 this year. You can find information on this conference at <http://srmgc.tennessee.edu>.

**The NCMGVA Board of Directors**

will meet here in Brunswick County at the Extension building on April 17 at 10:00 a.m. All Master Gardeners are welcome. Let Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman know if you plan to attend, as lunch will be served.

**News and Info from David Barkley:**

**We have been asked** to work with the Dept. of Transportation to preserve an endangered day lily plant in the area of the new Sunset Beach high rise bridge. We will monitor the plants and once they finish blooming, collect seeds, plant them in temporary beds holding beds while the bridge is under construction, and then help replant them once construction is complete.

Spring time will be upon us and with each new planting of tender young annuals, perennials and vegetables, **snail and slug control** will become increasingly important as the plants try to establish. The following are excerpts from an article written for *Grower Talk* magazine by Tom Thomson from Monterey Chemical Co. in CA which provides an update on various control measures for snails and slugs available to "Coastal Gardeners."

\* **SANITATION.** Cleanliness and good maintenance are the first methods of control. Eliminate areas where they spend their daylight hours. Clean up weeds and undesirable plants. Water early in the day to eliminate moist areas where they congregate. Clean up all wood, rocks and other areas where they hide.

**BIOCONTROL.** In some areas, decollate snails can be used for biological control. They live on the eggs of snails and slugs and eat rotting plant materials, but they won't eat live plants. Over a period of six months or longer, they can eliminate the population of brown garden snails and reduce the population of slugs. Release them at the rate of 1,000 per acre.

**CHEMICAL CONTROL.** Everyone has heard about beer, salt and other home-grown snail and slug controls. These aren't practical under production conditions; however. Metaldehyde baits, first introduced in the 1930s, are the most commonly used control.

Measuro (methiocarb) is a sprayable molluscicide/insecticide that's registered in the U.S. on greenhouse and field ornamentals. It's applied as a foliar spray up to four times per season. Measuro controls snails and slugs when they feed on treated foliage. Once ingested, feeding stops. Measuro also controls aphids and mites. It's not for use on food or forage crops.

The newest bait to hit the market is Sluggo (iron phosphate). Developed in Germany, it's registered in the U.S. for use on ornamentals, greenhouse vegetables and ornamentals, citrus, fruit crops, field crops, vegetables and grasses grown for seed, turf and landscape areas. The active ingredient is incorporated into a pasta-type product. Sluggo can be used up to the day of harvest on food or forage crops. One of the biggest advantages of Sluggo is that it's safe for pets and animals. It has no effect on earthworms, birds, insects or other nontarget species. Unlike metaldehyde baits, Sluggo must be ingested to be effective; it doesn't kill on contact.

## March Garden Chores

1. If weeds have been a problem in your landscape beds, consider using an appropriate pre-emergence herbicide. The timing is critical for good results....it needs to be in place before the weeds appear! One rule to remember: if you had weeds last year, expect a volunteer (bumper) crop in 2006.
2. Most pruning on rose bushes should be completed this month if you haven't done so already.
3. There are numerous fruit trees that will fit into most landscapes. Be sure to locate them

away from active people use areas. If you are in a small setting, consider using a dwarf cultivar. Be sure to plant a pollinator if necessary. You should also note that deer are attracted to fruit trees. If you are in a "deer zone," it is recommended to erect some type of fence around each tree. Electric fences work well in orchards but are probably not practical for homeowners with a limited amount of space.

4. Begin designing a perennial border. There are 20-25 very popular herbaceous perennials that are (almost) fool-proof, for all areas of N.C. Prepare the beds by deep tilling and incorporation of plenty of compost and plant later on in the spring.
5. Many landscapes would look 100% better if a 3"-4" layer of organic mulch was applied around the shrubs. Then take a square blade shovel and put a professional edge on the bed. Be sure to edge at least 18"-24" out from the outer edge (drip zone) of the shrubs.
6. Think about adding some garden sculpture to the landscape. Any number of birdbaths, gazing globes, wildlife or human figurines and statues can be found in garden centers and antique shops. If you don't believe this is the latest "style," just thumb through a few gardening magazines.
7. Although a severe case of spring fever makes a gardener do strange things, one temptation to resist is to work in the soil if it's wet. Think twice before you work in wet soil. Compaction problems are unforgiving.

## SUCCESS in the GARDEN for March!

Survival techniques for certain plants provide that they be dormant during harsh weather and grow and thrive during good weather. Problems arise when the weather becomes similar to springtime conditions and the plants respond by initiating new shoots, buds, leaves, flowers, etc.

Even in the winter months it is refreshing to see signs that spring is just around the corner with the early indicator plants such as the yellow flowering forsythia, the purplish pink saucer magnolia, the multicolored hyacinths, daffodils and crocus. These early blooming plants help to bring new life into our late winter landscapes and people also start thinking about spring and what they need to do for their landscapes.

**What to Plant:** You may continue to plant larkspur, poppies, and dianthus. In mid-March plant coreopsis, cherry laurel and southern magnolia and vegetables such as: broccoli, beets, cauliflower, and cabbage. Containerized roses can be planted anytime between March and May. This is the beginning of the next best time to plant ornamental shrubs and trees.

**What to Prune:** Prune deciduous spring flowering shrubs after flowers fade; quince, spirea and forsythia all flower on old growth. Do not prune shrubs that haven't bloomed yet such as azaleas and Indian hawthorns. Prune roses before bud break. Toward the end of the month, prune freeze-damaged oleanders in Coastal regions. Heavy pruning and rejuvenation pruning of summer blooming shrubs can be done now. On Rabbiteye blueberry bushes, prune to maintain 6-9 branches per plant.

**What to Fertilize:** The winter has been cold and warm at times. Typically it is best to fertilize most ornamental plants around April 15. You may apply bulb fertilizers according to label directions after bulbs emerge. Wait on other ornamentals until April. If you have not already fertilized pecan, do so now at your earliest convenience.

**Pest Outlook:** Check for tea scale on camellias and hollies; scale on euonymous and spider mites on juniper. Spray roses for black spot every 7-10 days. To control sooty mold, scale, mealybugs and spider mites, use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil. Always check label recommendations.

**Lawn Care:** If pre-emergent herbicides were not applied in late February, make sure to make applications prior to the dogwood bloom. Irrigating during warm, dry and windy weather with low relative humidity levels will prevent turf grasses from dehydrating. Do not irrigate every day. Over watering can lead to many different problems. Mow lawn as grass begins to green-up.

**Hints:** Divide and transplant perennials such as chrysanthemums, primroses, irises, violets, Shasta daisies and Daylilies. Daylilies can be divided and transplanted any time of the year.

### "ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM TREES"

- It's important to have roots.
- In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.
- Don't pine away over old flames.
- If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb.
- Be flexible so you don't break when a hard wind blows.
- Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.
- If you want to maintain accurate records, keep a log.
- To be politically correct...don't wear firs.
- Grow where you are planted.
- It's perfectly okay to be a late bloomer.
- Avoid people who would like to cut you down.
- Get all spruced up when you have a hot date.
- If the party gets boring just pick up and leaf.
- Be sure to cover your bare ash in the winter.
- As you approach the autumn of your life, you can't hide your true colors.
- It's more important to be honest than popular.

(source unknown)

## EVERGREEN AZALEAS IN ORDER OF BLOOM

Azaleas are great landscape plants and perform beautifully if planted in the correct microclimate....under tall pine trees in rich, well-drained soil, with a sprinkler system would be ideal. It is possible to have a prolonged season of bloom (2 months) from the azaleas if numerous cultivars are used. The following are popular azaleas listed according to their normal sequence of bloom:

- *Early:* Hino de-giri, Sherwood Red, Coral Bells, Tradition, H.H.Hume, Hershey's Red, Snow, Hino Crimson, Delaware Valley.
- *Midseason:* G.G. Gerbing, George Tabor, President Clay, Formosa, Rosebud, Elaine, and Pink camellia.
- *Late:* Gumpo, Lady Robin, Martha Hitchcock, Harris Purple, Higasa, Pleasant White

---

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