



## Master Gardener

# Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

# NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2008

## Upcoming Events...

**May 8-9-10<sup>th</sup>** Plant sale

### **Seminars on Insects and diseases**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>** Southport Wal-Mart Seminar

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** Leland Library Seminar

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** Hickman Crossroads Library

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** Southport Library Seminar

**June 18-21<sup>st</sup>** Southern Region Master Gardener Conference

**Oct 5-8** 2008 MG Conference in Brunswick County

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Party

### **Upcoming Speakers**

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Bryce Lane NCSU See Coastal Gardening Seminar below

**June 28<sup>th</sup>** Frank Galloway - Plants for local use

**July 24<sup>th</sup>** Dr. Frank Blazich - NCSU - Summer Propagation

**Aug 28<sup>th</sup>** Charlotte Glen - Plants for difficult situations

**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>** Ronda Sherman - Vermicomposting

**Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>** Toby Bost

**Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>** updates by horticulture staff

## **Coastal Gardening Seminar**

**May 22, 2008**

10:30 Dr. Bryce Lane, Horticulture Professor - NC State University, "If You Can't Stand the Heat Then Get Out of the Kitchen: Plants that Handle the Stress of North Carolina Landscapes

11:45 Lunch – RSVP (nominal fee to support 4H Youth)

12:30 Dr. Bryce Lane, "Using Native and Exotic Plants in the Landscape

1:30 Al Hight, Brunswick County Extension Director, "What is Your Plant Telling You!"  
2:30 David Barkley, "Tips on How to Keep Your Plants from Yelling at You"

## **Plant Sale!**

Lot's of newly arrived plants are filling our sale area. Come help, promote, and BUY! Thursday and Friday hours are 8:00 until 12:30 and afternoon hours are 12:30 until 5:00. Sat. hours are 9:00 until 12:00 and afternoon hours are 12:00 until 2:00- 3:00 depending upon the traffic.

## **2008 Conference Report**

The conference committee will be asking you to pay conference registration early so we will have sufficient funds to mail out the conference announcement around the end of June. If you pre-pay now when you receive your registration all you have to do is fill it out and return it. If you are a member of the North Carolina Master Gardener Volunteer Association the registration fee for full conference is \$130.00, for non members and guest the registration fee is \$145.00 if paid by September 1st. Bring your checkbook and avoid the late charge and help us get the conference announcement out on time. There will be a late charge after September 1st. The committee started with a lower registration fee, however with the increase cost of living we had to raise the registration fee. We will have approximately 24 workshops there should be something for everyone.

Shirley

**Will we see you at the May Meeting  
on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am ?**

## From the Presidents Desk ...

Thank you to all who continue to attend the membership meetings. Mark your calendar for the May meeting as our speaker will be Bryce Lane. Why not check with fellow Master Gardeners in your area and car pool.

We had a successful plant sale another one is scheduled for May 8th - 10th. We are conducting seminars across the county. Master Gardeners are always welcome to attend these seminars even if you are not scheduled to work them. If you have had a change of address, phone number or e-mail address let us know so you can continue to be contacted. 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:

#### **GET YOUR HOURS TURNED IN!**

Your hours must be recorded if you want to qualify as a master gardener and they are also important to Dave & me to show the impact Master Gardeners has on Brunswick County.



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

## **Wanted! Name our Newsletter**

Let's come up with a catchy name!

We now have a suggestion from Paula Cline, a new 2008 class member, "Growing Together - Brunswick County and BCMGVA". Thanks Paula! How about your suggestion? Send me your suggestions [jloughlin@ec.rr.com](mailto:jloughlin@ec.rr.com)

### **Master Gardeners Board Elected Officers:**

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### **Volunteer Chairs:**

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## Joe's Kitchen

I recently had the pleasure of dining with Bill and Marge Finley. Bill & I share an interest in cooking. It hasn't, however, affected his waist line like mine. Everything was great, but the dish that really caught my attention was "**Bill's Citrus Almond Rice**". By the way, if you would like your recipe published, I can almost guarantee that if you invite me to dinner, I'll print it!

2 Tbs. butter  
 ½ cup slivered or sliced almonds  
 2 cups white rice  
 1 orange zested  
 1 lemon zested  
 1 quart chicken stock



Heat a sauce pot over medium heat, add butter to the pot and melt. Add almonds and toast 3 to 4 minutes. Add rice and the zest of an orange and a lemon then turn to coat the rice. Add chicken stock, bring to a boil then reduce to simmer. Cover and cook 17 to 18 minutes. Fluff and serve.

*Bill Finley*

## Hardscape, Fred Mina:

We now have a new ramp to the Botanical Garden and a new stone bridge over the dry creek. Materials for the bridge were donated by George Patterson of "Mulch and More" and landscape class helped install it.

## Work Days

Please come and help us when you have time, but especially on the work days. April 7<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>

Gardens: Jim Blake is available to direct your work.

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

## Meet a Master Gardener

### Shirley Waggoner- Eisenman

*This is a new monthly feature and we will start with your President.*

DOB 8-23-38 - born in Southern Missouri - 2 sisters and one brother still living Grandfather lived to be 104, his great grandmother was an Indian Princess. Worked as a flight attendant and an Administrative Assistant for municipal government. My interest are reading and gardening.

I completed the MG class in 1993. Was on the Cooperative Extension State Advisor Council for 6 years. Presently serve on the Local Cooperative Extension Council. In 2005 received the Governors Award for volunteerism. Presently serve as President of BCMGVA and NCMGVA.

Would like to see BCMGVA members learn more about Extension and how it ties into North Carolina State University, be better known in the community, work with other counties and become better know across the state.

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

## BCMGVA donates trailer to the Brunswick County Extension Service.

The trailer is for use in promoting the Master Gardener Volunteer Program in Brunswick County. The purchase of a trailer was voted by the membership on March 27, 2008 at a regular meeting. There are several advantages to Extension owning the trailer. Extension, the Restitution Program, and Master Gardeners have through the years all benefited by working together and sharing resources.

## Located in the heart of Brunswick County

is a place of peace – tranquility or bustling activity plus learning. This spot is the Greenhouse/hoop house located along Government Center Drive at the Government complex in Bolivia. This spot had its origin through the work of the Restitution program of Brunswick County.



In the seventies, County Extension employee, Billy Privet, applied for grant funds to create a place where convicted teens could fulfill their court sentences. Through the Restitution program, these teens who have broken the law, can repay their debt to society by performing specified tasks at the greenhouse. The program is administered and monitored by a dedicated group of Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association (BCMGVA) members.

The teens are given a variety of garden tasks which include; planting, watering, repotting, cleaning/ stacking and maintaining order of pots, rearranging bedding areas, set up for plant sales and general maintenance of grounds. It is hoped that through these tasks, the teens learn gardening skills, a good work ethic and pursuits that will replace their previous delinquent behavior.

Over the years this area has grown from the humble beginnings of just one small greenhouse and shed to the addition of a hoop house, 3 storage sheds plus an enclosed area with an electronic fence to afford all plants protection from wild life.

The growth has been spurred – in large part – through the efforts of the BCMGVA as a means for fund raising as well as horticultural education for the community. Classes are given during the yearly Master Gardener training course and seasonal plant

sales are offered. Hands on learning sessions are offered for BCMGVA members and the community in general throughout the year.

The public is welcomed at the seasonal plant sales where gardening advice is always available. So if you are new to the region or just new to gardening, stop by and enjoy this spot in the heart of Brunswick County.

### David Barkley

Extension Horticulture Agent  
Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service

#### MASTER GARDENING TIPS – May 2008

### "Full steam ahead" for Turfgrass

Now is the time to get started on the warm season grass activities (e.g. Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, and St. Augustine)! Seed, sprig, plug or plant rolls of sod now and throughout the summer in the Cape Fear region of North Carolina. Fertilize, water, mow low and let it grow. Centipede is the exception to the typical lime and fertilizer suggestions since centipede grass prefers acid soils and fertilizing just once in early June. You can aerify and dethatch warm seasoned grasses if needed to overcome compaction and thatch problems. One other overlooked task is to identify grass types in your lawn and what weeds you have and implement an eradication program before the weeds take over.

### Other Chores for May:

- 1 Inspect vegetables, fruits, and landscape plants for the following insect problems; Aphids, Caterpillars, Lace bug, Leaf Miner, Mites, Scales, Stem borers, Weevils and Whitefly.
- 2 Also, inspect for disease problems such Phomopsis Die-back and Phytophthora Root Rot for landscape plants and other stem and root rots in the vegetable garden.

3 Shield your plants from contact herbicides as you spray.

4 Leaf Gall attacks azaleas and camellias at this time of year. Sprays would have helped this situation if only they had been sprayed when the new leaves came out in April. At this late stage of development hand-pick and remove the infected leaves from the area.

5 POWDERY MILDEW may be a problem as the season progresses. It is most likely to be found on crape myrtle and euonymus. This fungal disease may be controlled by spraying Banner or Bayleton according to label directions.

6 Disease prevention is important for people who are trying to limit their chemical spray controls. Avoid watering late in the day or at night. Wet foliage at night will enhance the development of diseases.

7 Cool season vegetables will be finishing up and double cropping this garden space will increase your garden productivity. It is time now to plant warm season vegetables (melons, peppers, squash, cucumbers, snap beans, and okra).

8 Now is also a good time to plant annuals and summer bulbs such as caladiums, cannas, dahlias and gladiolus.

9 If April has been too dry in your location, then make sure you are tending to the watering needs of your plants as the weather warms. We are still many inches below normal rainfall for the past 12 months.

10 Light to heavy pruning may be done at this time for most landscape plants but, have a good reason in mind for when you prune and what you hope to achieve with the cuts that you make. E.g. crossing branches, rubbing branches, girdling roots, storm damaged parts, diseased limbs, etc...) Remember the 4D's – DEAD, DISEASED, DYING, OR DAMAGED TISSUE may be pruned at any time.

11 Mulching provides over 15 benefits to the garden and to the environment and this

month is still a good time to keep weeds in check and to conserve moisture by applying mulch to areas in the garden and around the landscape. How many benefits can you name?

**What to Prune:** Prune deciduous spring flowering shrubs after flowers fade; quince, spirea and forsythia all flower on old growth. Heavy pruning and rejuvenation pruning of summer blooming shrubs can be done now.



**What to Fertilize:** Typically it is best to fertilize most ornamental plants around April 15. You may apply bulb fertilizers according to label directions after bulbs emerge. If you have not already fertilized do so now at your earliest convenience.

**Pest Outlook:** Check for tea scale on camellias; scale on euonymus 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. We already have reports of Japanese Beetles

beginning to feed on Crape Myrtles. Applications of merit should already be down for the roots to take up to control spring and early summer pests.



**Lawn Care:** 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 your lawn as the grass begins to green-up. You will need to follow any water restriction codes for your area set by local authorities.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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](mailto:jloughlin@ec.rr.com))

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