



Brunswick County Master Gardener  
Volunteer Association

# NEWSLETTER

November 2006

## Light Up the Night

Native Plants... will be the topic for our speaker at the November General Meeting. Ozzie Coor is an internationally known plant propagator. He is President of Coor Farm Supply and co-owner of Rainwater Farms. He frequently presents hands-on workshops to Master Gardeners.

Don't let the long nights of fall and winter get you down! Put all of that darkness to good use by adding low-voltage lighting to your landscape. Learn how to design the system and install your new lights at the "Light up the Night" seminar on Thursday, November 16 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Center in Bolivia. Part of the session will include actually installing some new lighting in the Brunswick Botanical Garden, so please dress appropriately.

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Mark your calendars and  
Come to the  
**Holiday Party**  
on December 14.  
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Even though there is no charge to join us for this seminar, please register by calling 253-2610 by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14 so you won't miss out on the handouts and written information.

## Botanical Garden Work Schedule Has Changed

Word from Maggie: Because participation in the third Monday work group was pretty light, we are dropping that day. From now on, we will be working on the **first Monday** and **third Tuesday** of every month. This way, we will have workers at the garden roughly every other week. Please join these work groups – the more the merrier, and there is always a lot to be accomplished. Let Maggie know if you can join one or both of the groups.



If you would like to buy the **green MG apron** worn by some of MG volunteers at the plant sale in October, see Shirley Waggoner Eisenman. She can order them for you for \$15 each.



Life isn't a matter of milestones,  
but of moments.

## Gardening on the Edge

If you were not able to attend the 2006 North Carolina Master Gardening Conference in October, some of the attendees provided their impressions of the conference:

**Shirley Waggoner Eisenman:** "If you missed the 2006 North Carolina State Master Gardener Conference (Gardening on the Edge) you missed an excellent conference. There were between 250 and 300 attendees. It was held on the Outer Banks and hosted by 6 counties. There were tours to the Outer Banks Arboretum and the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo.

Authors Pamela Harper and Peer Loewer, both presentations were enjoyed by all; they were also available to sign their books and talk with Master Gardeners. Bryce Lane from WUNC "In The Garden" series as always gave an outstanding presentation. Workshops ranged from Propagating Exotics and Heirlooms favorites, Mystery Critters in Your Garden, and The DaVinci Garden Code, to Going Native. There was an entire afternoon devoted to a hands-on workshop on Bonsai. Many vendors were available in the Garden Marketplace.

We sold our "Gardening by the Month"; one person was taking it to Mississippi to use in the rebuild of that area. Our Display Board was set up showing what we do here in Brunswick County as Master Gardener Volunteers. Thanks to Barbara McCoy and Vickie Kay for all the work they put into the Display Board.

Look forward to seeing you at 2007 Conference."

**Vicki Kay:** "We had a great trip to the Outer Banks and the Gardening on the Edge Conference.

Lecture subjects and speaker presentations were timely and done well.

I enjoyed the Outer Banks Arboretum and Teaching Garden, which led to a delightful reception.

We tried everything and did everything. All this I especially enjoyed doing with my friends from the Brunswick Co. Master Gardeners."

**Maggie Hoon:** "The North Carolina Master Gardener Conference 'Gardening on the Edge' held in early October was great and extremely well run. As this was my first conference, I was well pleased with the programs. It was lovely to have so many from our group attending. The speakers were outstanding including Bryce Lane and Pamela Harper. I also attended sessions on herbs (medicinal), night gardening and propagation by Ozzie Coor. You will be in for a real treat when he comes in November."

### Master Gardeners Board Elected Officers:

#### President

Richard Boland

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#### Vice president

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

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In November 2005, there were 108 calls to the Hotline. The break-down of these calls is as follows:

**General:** 37. Of the 37 calls, 13 requested Newcomer packets and 9 requested soil sample kits and interpretation of analysis. The remainders ask for various information such as composting, etc.

**Lawns:** 27. The majority of calls were about Centipede grass and weed control.

**Trees:** 20. The species of trees varied among Crepe Myrtle, Leland Cypress, Pines and general questions about growing trees.

**Shrubs:** 7. Confederate rose had the most questions and the remainder were for other plants.

**Pests:** 6. All the usual pests: moles, ants, etc.

**Vegetables/Flowers:** 8. The callers requested general information about growing various flowers and roses.

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.

### Master Gardener Requirements:

A message detailing the requirements for membership in the Master Gardener Association was sent out by email late last month and is quoted here in full for those members who don't receive email: "To belong to the Master Gardener Association (MGA), you must first be an active Master Gardener. To be active, you must have donated at least 40 hours – 20 hours minimum Hot Line plus at least 20 hours on other activities – in the last year. For other than new Master Gardeners, those who graduated in June 2006, you must have completed your hours by the end of December 2006. The class of 2006 has until the end of June to complete their minimum of 40 hours Hot Line time or equivalent. Let me repeat, if you have not completed the hours listed above, you are not a Master Gardener! You can not call yourself one and you can not join or continue to belong to the Extension Master Gardener Association.

If you wish to continue with the Master Gardeners but are short on donated time, there are still two months to go before the end of the year. We have plenty of activities and could really use your help.

The only other requirement is to pay \$5 a year dues. These are payable no later than January 2. Recommend that you pay a few years in advance so you don't have to worry about it. If your dues are not paid by March 1, you will be removed from the MGA and no longer be entitled to any of the MGA activities.

For unusual circumstances, such as sickness, out of town for an extended time period, etc., please call Charlie or David Barkley."

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We offer our condolences to Bill Finley, whose mother passed away October 8.

## Your Dues are Coming Due

Speaking of requirements to be a Master Gardener Assn. member, Your \$5 annual dues are due by January 2. A form to use when you send in your payment is printed on the back page of this newsletter. Remember, you can pay more than one year if you want.

*From Charlie: If you attended the Stat Conference at the Outer Banks, include your total expenses, travel time, mileage totals both ways – also enter 8 hours for Tuesday and 4 hours for Wednesday seminars on your time sheets in the office. That information needs to be entered by the end of November if possible.*

## Gardening Tips for November

*From David Barkley:*

You may wish to consider the following chores to perform at this time of the year:

- Continue to plant trees and shrubs in the landscape. Keep them watered and use winter protection if necessary. Keeping them in a barn or garage for a few days to protect the root ball from freezing should be considered if cold weather is expected around planting time.
- Clean up the water garden. Remove floating leaves and algae from the water and discard any dead plant material. If there are any tender plants needing protection from freezing temperatures (tropical lilies etc.) remove them to a heated structure. If there are fish in the pool, be sure to maintain at least 18-20 inches of water all winter long.
- Remove leaves which have fallen on the turf. A leaf blower is more likely to remove leaves without disturbing the mulch when the leaves are dry. Run the blower on low and remove the leaves often or at least before they pile up.
- Recycle mums into the perennial border. Keep them watered and fertilized. Cut back next year and you should have a good display next fall.
- Seeds that mature and are shed from trees in the fall should be collected and sown immediately into prepared beds or containers. They generally will germinate the following spring. Acorns usually require removing the caps from the acorn. Dogwoods and magnolia seeds should have the outer red covering soften by soaking the seed in water. Red maple seeds ripen in the spring and should be collected and sown immediately after harvesting.
- Pinch tops of pansies and snapdragons to remove stocky growth.
- Prune lantana to 1/3 its height and spread.
- Check camellias and azaleas for spider mites and treat with insecticidal soap if mites are found.

- Remove older canes of raspberries and blackberries.
- Remove dead vegetable plants from the garden to prevent insects and diseases from over-wintering.
- Treat scales with a dormant oil spray applied to the branches and stems where scales are attached.
- If you removed your bird feeder during the summer, now is the time to put the feeder back out.

### Great Holiday Gift Idea:

The holidays are right around the corner and as you start thinking about gifts, consider subscriptions to *Extension's Successful Gardener* newsletter for your gardening friends and family. The newsletter is published 10 months per year and is filled with information specific to North Carolina growing conditions. The articles are written by North Carolina Cooperative Extension horticulture experts. A one-year subscription is \$12.95. Call (919) 513-3112 or visit [www.successfulgardener.org](http://www.successfulgardener.org). You will find articles in the newsletter that will not be included in these monthly e-tips.

### Pests Lurking Outside:

Be on the look out for insects which will soon be looking for places to over winter. Boxelder bugs occur on *Acer negundo* and will cover your window screens looking for a place to come inside. Even though they are not harmful they cause a stir of excitement from people who are not familiar with them,

making them think about Alfred Hitchcock's movie "The Birds." Well, in a sense, I guess the birds could come and try to feast on them. Usually a stream of water is all that is needed.

Ladybugs seem harmless enough but they can become quite a nuisance pest as well once they get inside the house. If you notice huge numbers of these pests congregating on the outside of your house during the fall consider a preemptive strike. Bifenthrin, cyfluthrin or permethrin are labeled for boxelder bugs and would take out the ladybugs if necessary. Treat door thresholds, window ledges and any places insects congregate or gain entry.

### Shrubs and Trees:

If you see neatly cut limbs falling off pecan, hickory or persimmon they are probably the result of the pecan twig girdler. This insect lays eggs in the twigs and then cuts them. They fall later. Destroying the limbs over the winter will kill the eggs or larvae. However, insects may fly in from adjacent woodlands. During heavy infestations, these insects have been known to girdle pear, grape and linden trees in addition to their preferred host.

### Perennials, Bulbs, Roses, Etc.

- Divide spring-flowering perennials in the fall.
- After the first killing frost, remove dead or yellowed foliage from perennials. Clean up your perennial beds and apply clean mulch to reduce the outbreak of diseases. While cleaning up the perennial bed

remember that some seed heads will provide winter food for birds.

- Buy spring-flowering bulbs now but wait until December to plant them.
- Winterizer fertilizer is more of a marketing term than a horticultural term. Without a soil test, the need for certain nutrients is strictly a guess.
- Don't deadhead your spent flowers on your roses. Instead, remove the petals with your hands to allow the rose hips to form. This helps trigger the rose into winter dormancy.
- Clean up your rose bed. Remove any leaves or flowers that may be on the ground.

### Inquiring Gardeners Want to Know...

Each fall a number of people call in or write wanting to know if they still have time to perform certain gardening and landscape chores they forgot to do in the spring and summertime. A gardener contacted us and wanted to know if it is too late to prune and fertilize some of the shrubs he planted last spring. More specifically, will it do any good to fertilize now or will it hurt the plants? He also wanted to know what chores he should be doing at this time of the year.

Tip pruning can be accomplished this month. Many evergreens are used in various Christmas decorations from both the foliage and berries. Favorites include the holly species, nandina, pines and cedars. Save the heavy (renovative) type pruning until late winter or early spring. Heavy pruning now would cause too much

tender growth that will be prone to cold injury later this winter.

As for fertilizer, a lot of people think that fertilizing is a magic cure-all for all kinds of plant problems. Not so in this case. Same rule applies as for the pruning. Fertilizing plants this late into the season would cause them to remain tender throughout the winter. Since I don't have a crystal ball to tell just how nice a winter we will have, I must advise to wait until around April 15th (tax time) to fertilize your landscape plants and later for your lawn areas. Just remember, when it is time to pay "Uncle Sam" it is time to pay your plants with some fertilizer. Usually 2-4 pounds of 10:10:10 per 100 square feet will suffice.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Now is the best time of the year to plant your landscape trees and shrubs.
- November is the time to select your Christmas tree for the Holiday Season.
- Fall gardens may be harvested right on through the cold weather.
- The first freeze can occur in mid October but, the average first freeze date is November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Pecans often need a couple of really cold nights to open the husks that holds the pecans to the trees.

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*Discretion is putting two and two together and then keeping your mouth shut.*

# 2007 Dues Notice

**Dues are payable by January 1 each year.**

Make checks payable to: Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association (BCMGVA)  
\$5.00 per Individual

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks to: Linda Lemieux

3882 Members Club Blvd.

Southport, NC 28461

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

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[www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick)

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We would all like to know your name.



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