



Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

October 2005

A Message From Our President:

*Brunswick Residents
Need our help*

Here it is! "It's recognition time again!" This is so much fun for me.. in part because it is so easy to do. Recognizing our fellow BCMGV can go on forever.

This time I am humbled by the work of our editors. There are four, for those of you who may not know. Becky Dus is our lead Newsletter editor. Nancy Einbinder and Cathie Rod help with the copying and mailing. Lisa Miner is the "website editor and webmaster". These poor people have suffered under my less than precise harassment and one of the measures of their capability is that they have survived me! The changeover from old to new has had its trying times, but they have done it and the results are now really beginning to show. I hope you are all going to these sites:

www.bcmastergardener.org and <http://home.ec.rr.com/herbarium/> (BCMBVA online herbarium). You can view reports of current and future activities and useful information for gardeners.

Please join me in offering thanks to your fellow volunteers and keep your thoughts, suggestions and content input coming to constantly improve the resulting product.

Happy gardening,
Dan

I realize that you have been hit with requests for donations to support many worthy causes, but there is one here in Brunswick County to support your less fortunate neighbors. The "Make a Difference Day" concludes on Saturday, October 22. The Volunteer Center is collecting clean coats and sweaters to dispense for the upcoming winter season. However, the most important donation needed is food for the various food pantries. Of course, money is always the easiest thing to give and allows the managers of the pantries to buy what is most needed. Checks may be made payable to "The Volunteer Center".

I will accept all donations here, in my office. Please help support the needy located here in Brunswick County.

Thanks, Charlie

Farewell to Al Hight – you will be greatly missed by all the Brunswick County Master Gardeners. See next page for details.

I consider every plant hardy until I have killed it myself.

-Sir Peter Smithers

News from Charlie -

Indigo Farms will celebrate **Heritage Day** on Saturday, October 1. We will staff a booth, conduct a plant clinic and do presentations (topics to be determined). **Helpers are needed for this day and set up on Friday, September 30 – sign up sheet in MG office.**

Sign up to work at the **Fall Plant Sale** on Friday and Saturday, October 7th and 8th.

Life on the Farm – has been **put on hold** due to lack of funding from Brunswick County Schools. Because of gas prices, field trips have been greatly reduced. We will keep you updated on this situation.

A Special Farewell

For those of you who may not be aware, **Al Hight** is transferring to work in the extension program of Pender County. His duties will include livestock, commercial horticulture, forestry, crops and storm water. We wished him a farewell at the September meeting so I hope you had a chance to say good by. Al has always pitched in to help us in any way he could. His assistance to the Brunswick County Master Gardener program is too large to even try to measure.

We are fortunate he is still close so we can offer our help and support as he assumes his new position. We wish him continued success in all he does.

New Copier: To use the new copier an identification number is needed. The number to use is 2602 (the last digits of the MG phone #). This helps track departmental uses.

Be on the look out for a **Hickory Horn Devil – a very colorful caterpillar**. It reminds David of a Chinese dragon costume used in Chinese festivals. It is approximately 6-8 inches(?). If found, bring specimen to David Barkley's office.

We will NOT be doing the ticket sales at the Cape Fear Fair on Oct. 30. We may volunteer to take entries on Tuesday or Wednesday evening prior to the fair or greet and welcome people to the fair on Sunday, October 30. Contact David if you can help.

Master Gardeners Board

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Vice president

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910-253-4245

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Al Hight will continue "The Coastal Gardener" radio program on Saturday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on 106.3 FM and 103.9 FM and will add a TV segment on ABC, Fri – at the noon broadcast starting Oct 1.

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In **October 2004**, there were **82** calls to the Hotline. The breakdown of these calls is as follows:

General: 37 The majority of these calls were for Soil Sample kits and fertilizer result interpretation. We also received calls on how and when to prune. Heritage Day gave us 11 items needing responses

Lawns: 17 The majority of the calls concerned problems with centipede and weeds in the lawn. The remainder were calls on St. Augustine and general lawn information

Trees: 11 General calls without specific trees.

Shrubs: 2 The calls were about Pyracantha and Oleander.

Pests: 7 The pests were numerous and varied.

Vegetables: 2

Flowers: 6 Bulbs were the focus last year.

...Remember This New Fee Schedule When You Work the Hot Line...It is posted in the Master Gardener office and revised information sheets will

also be printed.

Soil Samples: Free Plant Tissue Analysis: \$5
Waste Analysis: \$5 Feed Analysis: \$10
Nematode Analysis: \$3 Forage Analysis: \$10

Plant Disease & Insect Clinic Plant Samples:
\$10 (no increase)

Surplus Budge Approvals

As some of you may be aware, we've had a very healthy fiscal year and have determined where and how to apply the excess funds. The following projects or items have been approved: **a riding mower, a building to house all BCMGVA equipment at the greenhouse complex, more gravel walk ways in the greenhouse area, carts (much needed during plant sales), additional raised beds, expansion of sprinkler system and an addition to the electronic fence.** (The last item needs the help of prison labor which is presently on hold). Treasurer, Linda Lemieux will prepare an updated budget spread sheet for the next meeting OR the next news letter.

SO with additional tools and improvements to the greenhouse, make sure you see and use these items by volunteering to work the 1st Monday, 2nd Tuesday or 3rd Monday of every month. Hilton Holcomb usually emails a work list so everyone is clear on what needs to be accomplished.

There are occasions when volunteers are needed without much advanced notification. That was true the week of the September general meeting when David requested volunteers to clean up the front entrance and some of the adjacent garden area. He greatly appreciates all the help offered in this beautification project.

Only God can make a tree, but I'm in charge of seeds and weeds!

- Author Unknown

- David Barkley's Tips for Fall Gardening

When you finish all your other gardening jobs... go "gib" your camellias. This is the time to apply gibberellic acid to the buds to enhance next year's display. For those gardeners who don't have a camellia, there's no better time to plant one.

SUCCESSFUL GARDENING NOW DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU DO FOR YOUR PLANTS AS WINTER DORMANCY ARRIVES. Water when plants need water, shut down feeding or avoid using fertilizing materials with nitrogen in them, limit pruning to light corrective pruning and plant trees and shrubs with the top of the root ball close to the soil surface. Don't plant them too deep. Follow the plantings with a layer of mulch two to three inches in depth. Make sure you have the right plant for the right location. Select the plants that do well in this region and are adapted to our climatic conditions.

GET THOSE LEAVES OFF THE GRASS

Many people think that if they wait long enough, the wind will blow the leaves off their property, thus minimizing the fall raking. Although this idea has merit, there are potential problems especially if there is a good stand of turf under the pile of leaves. The damage to the grass is caused by the lack of sunlight, resulting in a loss of chlorophyll in the leaf blades. The longer the situation lasts, the more food reserves are used. When the leaves are eventually cleared, the grass is dead. This is a slow death to the grass, but dead is dead. (It will happen much faster if the leaves get compacted and stay wet.)

DO THOSE PLANTS NEED PRUNING--- OR REMOVING?

This is an excellent time to evaluate your landscape. Many overgrown or slightly overgrown shrubs can be pruned back into shape. This is especially true for many of the holly species that are used in foundation plantings. Most of the really drastic pruning should be delayed until late winter. If you prune them now, you'll have an eyesore of a sawed off plant until after the spring growth occurs. The solution for many overgrown shrubs is complete removal.

This may be a major task for some landscapes but in time, you will be glad you did it. Otherwise, you can count on heavy pruning next winter again. October is a good month to remove the large plants because they can be replaced immediately with fresh new selections. The lesson to learn here is—don't make the same mistake twice. That is, don't replace an overgrown tree or shrub with a smaller specimen of the same species. Remember all new plants added to the landscape require a specific amount of space for adequate growth.

FALL IS FOR PLANTING PLANTING TECHNIQUES FOR TREES AND SHRUBS.

A properly planted tree or shrub will be more tolerant of adverse conditions and require much less management than one planted incorrectly. Planting techniques impact water quality as it minimizes water, fertilizer and pesticide use. When making decisions on planting techniques, one should consider how the plant was grown in the nursery, drainage requirements, soil type and drainage characteristics, and the availability of irrigation water. The plant should be specifically appropriate to the site, or the site should be amended to specifically fit the plant.

*Don't discard chrysanthemums, place them in perennial beds. ******

*Replace summer annuals with pansies and snapdragons. ******

*Avoid cool season weeds – apply appropriate per-emergent herbicide(s) NOW.. ******

*Catch those lace bugs on azaleas. Specks will appear on under sides of foliage.. ******

*Make sure Redheaded Caterpillars aren't eating the foliage on your Azaleas – shake them off or blast with garden hose.. *****

*Overseed bermudagrass with annual rye.. ******

*Before leaves leave your trees check for tip dieback-an indicator of an unhealthy tree. ******

Guest Speakers for future meetings

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman and David Barkley have scheduled speakers for the rest of the year as well as part of 2006. Make sure you attend all monthly meetings and share the **FUN** while updating your knowledge of gardening.

October: Chuck Friedrich, a registered landscape architect and member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the ASTM Green Roof Task Subcommittee, will talk to us about rooftop gardens, or "Green Roofs."

November: Dr. Wanda Sykes is the Southeast District Extension Director. She will talk about the 13-county district that includes Brunswick County, its structure and operations and how it fits in with NCSU.

December: Remember the holiday party. Arlene Hubner will be forming committees and asking for volunteers at the October meeting.

If you have any suggestions for speakers who can extend our knowledge of gardening, or if you have ideas for topics for the General Meetings, let Shirley or Dave know.

Please remember that refreshments are enjoyed at all meetings. Take your turn and sign up to be host or hostess at one of the general meetings.

Member News:

- Let's continue to keep **Nancy Lehto** in our thoughts.
- We wish Allan Fitzgibbon all the best as he relocates to Southern California. May your new garden flourish and give you great pleasure.

If you didn't attend the September

meeting you missed a most informative presentation by Erv Evans, State Coordinator for Master Gardeners. Erv was able to leave additional handouts which can be found in the MG office.

Erv informed us that Brunswick MGVA is UNIQUE for its Restitution program, Work in Schools, Creation of a Monthly Calendar Guide and use of prison labor.

When talking of the Master Gardener organization, Erv encouraged us to place emphasis on the manor of help and education we offer to the community such as: plant clinics, hot line coverage, programs in county schools and the work put into maintaining the Botanical Garden and the greenhouse.

Nominating Committee News

Peggy Meinzer is joining Nancy Einbinder and Ann Duke to create the slate of officers for next year. If you wish to "throw your hat in the ring" please contact one of these members or see one of them at the October 27 general meeting. Positions to be voted (re-elected or newly elected) are: President/ Vice President and Treasurer. Also needed are two new nominating members –hopefully one seasoned Master Gardener. The slate will be presented for approval and voting at the general meeting on November 17.

Nancy Einbinder (253-3545) nancye714@yahoo.com
Ann Duke (454-0413) wduke1@ec.rr.com
Peggy Meinzer (842-4928)
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Meetings!

General meetings - 9 AM

October 27, November 17 December 13

Board meetings - 9 AM

October 18, November 8

Minutes of previous meetings can be seen at:

<http://bcmastergardener.org/documents.html>

Join the fun at the State Conference

Listen to David Barkley
WAAB 980 AM 10-11 a.m.
The last Friday of the month.

You should have received an invitation to the **2005 Conference in Goldsboro on Oct. 28 and 29**. Everyone is **encouraged** to participate and meet some of your gardening friends from other parts of the state. Shirley will be selling *Gardening by the Month* at the meeting – if you go, could you help her out for an hour or two?

If you have an item for the newsletter, be sure to submit it to both Becky Dus (rcd@nfcexperts.com) and Lisa Miner (lisaminer@mac.com)

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www.bcmastergardener.org

www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick

www.ncmastergardeners.org

NAMETAG; you have earned it, now wear it.
We would all like to know your name.

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