



## Master Gardener

# Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

# NEWSLETTER

October, 2007

## Upcoming Events...

**Oct. 18, 19, 22, & 26th** Life on the farm

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** October Regular Meeting

**Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>** Fall Seminar Hickman  
Crossroads Library *"Insuring color for  
Spring" and "Helping your growies have a  
Happy New Year"*

**Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>** Fall Seminar Leland Library

**Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>** Fall Seminar Southport Library

**Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>** Fall Seminar Southport Walmart

**Dec 13th** Christmas Luncheon Party

**Dec. 13&14** Festival of Lights

## Upcoming Speakers

**Oct. 25th** Marcia P Doering - Arboretum  
Coordinator - New Hanover County.

**Nov 29<sup>th</sup>** Dick Bir - Retired - worked at  
Fletcher Research Station in Fletcher NC.

**Jan 24<sup>th</sup>** Richard Bennett - Brunswick  
Community College - Plant Diseases

**Feb 28th** Chris Moorman - Wildlife  
Management

**March 27<sup>th</sup>** Ken Fager NCSU Growing  
Organic

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** Peter Hertyl - NCSU - Ground  
Pearls

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Bryce Lane NCSU Gardening  
Ideas

**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 24<sup>th</sup>** Toby Bost

**Nov. 29th** updates by horticulture staff or  
in the garden tape.

## 2008 MG NC Convention In Brunswick County October 5-8

We will need lots of help. Here is a list of  
opportunities:

**Conference Treasurer** - establishes a  
separate conference account -receives and  
disburse all funds.

**Registrar** - Receives all conference  
registration - relays all information on  
registration form to appropriate person.

**Statistician and registrar** can be the same  
person. Both jobs require a lot of computer  
work. Statistician keeps track of all those  
attending conference, special events such  
as tours etc.

**Web Site** - Establish a conference web site  
and keep it updated.

**Vendors** - sell vendor space. Price will be  
established, have a sample contract.

**Committees** consisting of a chair and  
members. Chair will be responsible for  
reporting on the conference status.

**Tours** - pre-conference tours. Have list  
started.

**Sponsors** - solicit cash or in kind  
donations. Businesses can sponsor breaks,  
meals, etc.

**Tote Bag** - kind, price, logo, sponsor for  
tote bag etc.

**Will we see you at the October Meeting on the 25th?**

**Convention Opportunities Continued ...****Door Prizes** - Solicit from the community.**Decorations** - for tables at meals, podium, etc.**Ads** - solicit ads to be placed in conference program. Price for ads will be established.**Signage** - any signage needed for the conference site.**Invitation** - Design, price for printing, etc.**Program** - assemble, prepare for printer, cost etc.**Name tags** - design, purchase, print etc.**Evaluation forms** - have samples. Price for printing etc.**Solicit items to be placed in the tote bags** ie visit chamber of commerce for information on the area. Donations from businesses ie pen, pencils, pads, seeds, samples of all kinds, etc. Do we have a silent auction and a book sale?

Do we offer conference t-shirts? Will we need entertainment at banquet. lunches etc.

**Host/ Hostess** - one for each speaker, workshop presenter day of their arrival at the conference.**Gofers & Help mailing** out invitations.

Hospitality Suite

Phone # 754-4148 for Shirley

**Member News**

David Barkley has had foot surgery and will be laid up for sometime. We wish him a speedy recovery and that he has some valuable down time.

**Ash Needs help!**

The first of the flower plugs for the Spring sale will be shipped. Ash will need a few folks to transplant the plugs when they arrive Oct 24<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 750 plugs will arrive. Trees for the Spring sale that need potting will arrive the week of Nov. 5th, followed by plants on the week of Nov. 12th. More plants will arrive the week of Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The last of the plants for the Spring sale will arrive the week of Jan. 7th. Still have a lot of work that needs accomplishing in the Garden.

**From Charlie**

Don't forget the upcoming election for the new Board of Officers. Please try and be here for the Nov. meeting. Don't forget to please get your time sheets up to date by the end of Dec. If you're short on volunteer time, try and get caught up or give me a call and we will see if we can't work something out.

**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

Al Smith

[Asmith126@ec.rr.com](mailto:Asmith126@ec.rr.com)

910-457-6674

**Volunteer Chairs:**

Recording Secretary

Cathie Rod

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

910-457-5091

Corresponding Secretary

Peggy Meinzer

[pmeinzer@lockwoodfolly.net](mailto:pmeinzer@lockwoodfolly.net)

910-842-4928

Library

Grace Wrigley

[gwrigley@atmc.net](mailto:gwrigley@atmc.net)

910-846-3341

MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

[Charlie\\_spencer@ncsu.edu](mailto:Charlie_spencer@ncsu.edu)

910-383-6432

NCMGVA Liaison

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

[shirley312@webtv.net](mailto:shirley312@webtv.net)

910-754-4148

Newsletter Editor

Joe Loughlin

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

910-269-4038

Restitution &amp; Greenhouse

Ash Tyler

[at Tyler@ec.rr.com](mailto:at Tyler@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

Becky Dus

[rcd@nfcexperts.com](mailto:rcd@nfcexperts.com)

910-253-8937

Membership

Dominique Loewenstein

[domilo@2khiway.net](mailto:domilo@2khiway.net)

910-579-0161

History

Barbara McCoy

[mccoy@atmc.net](mailto:mccoy@atmc.net)

910-575-7679

Webmaster

Lisa Miner

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

## Joe's Kitchen

I just bought three giant mustard plants for my garden. I found that last year they not only made a great show of green & purple all winter long, but they really spiced up my salads when I used just a leaf or two with my lettuce. Don't over do! It's really spicy.

Here is an oldie, but goody from my wife Marty's grandmother. It can't be any easier and it's soooo good.

### Grandma's Roasted Pork Loin

1 Pork Loin 5-8 lb. (this isn't an exacting recipe)

2 packets of Lipton Instant Onion Soup Mix

2 cans of Campbell's Mushroom Soup

Freshly ground pepper

In a covered baking pan spread the bottom with the first packet of Onion Soup. Place the Loin fat side up in the pan and rub the top with as much pepper as you like. Mix the 2 cans of mushroom soup, remaining Onion packet, and enough water to make a thick topping that you then spread over the roast. Cover & Bake at 350° about an hour and 45 minutes or until center reaches 185°. Let the roast stand for 10-15 minutes before slicing. The pan will contain a great gravy to serve over the pork and/or your starchy vegetable.



You can also use the same recipe with a beef roast or as my grandmother always preached, cooking both beef and pork in the same pan makes both meats better.

Add garlic potatoes & Collard Greens to this dish, top it off with a chess pie and invite me to dinner!

## Another Comment from Joe

I attended the Tuesday meeting of the State Convention. My hat is off to those that put together this year's convention. We are going to need to work hard to put together a better one next year. They had 6 speakers on Tuesday and my head is still spinning with all the information presented. I also can't wait to visit two of the speaker's nurseries next spring. Tony Avent from Raleigh's "Plant Delights Nursery" and Ted Stevens from North Augusta, SC's Nurseries Carolina both showed us what we won't be seeing at Walmart. New, unusual, and beautiful describe the plants they feature. I was also lucky enough to win \$80 worth of merchandise, plus all the freebies they gave away. Think I made money by going. (Now that's just silly, because I will spend a fortune next spring on all those new plants) 😊

**"Fall is for Planting"** banners will soon be found flying across the nation at your local nurseries and garden centers letting you know it is time to jump on the bandwagon and plant to enhance the beauty of your home grounds.

Trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs all can be included in this annual campaign to add new plants to your landscape or to replace plants which are not meeting up to expectations.

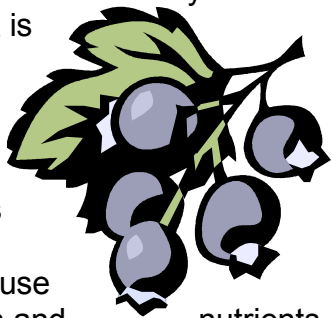
Whether you are adding a few plants or renovating an entire landscape, fall weather provides a more favorable environment for plants to establish before next summer's heat. With warm days and cooler nights, the plant's roots will continue to grow until soil temperatures dip below 40 degrees thus providing you with a head start for next spring.

## 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.

### *Blueberries in the Landscape*

Blueberries, *Vaccinium* sp., are one of the few plants that offer both beauty and taste throughout most of the year. The actual blueberry fruit is touted by the National Institutes of Health as a way to delay the aging process. Blueberries are nutritional stars, providing a powerhouse boost of antioxidants and nutrients without adding many calories. So why not plant them in your home landscape?



Blueberries are typically used in the landscape as hedges for screening purposes, but they can also be used in cluster plantings or as single specimen plants. Blueberries are spectacular in the fall with brilliant yellow and red foliage that lights up the landscape. They have attractive, bell-shaped, white and occasionally pink flowers in the spring. The summer fruit is a dark purplish blue. An added bonus is their lack of disease and insect problems.

Blueberries require a lower pH than many other small fruit crops and other plants. Therefore, consider grouping them with other

acid-loving plants such as hollies, azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias. Before planting, take a soil test. The ideal pH for blueberries is between 4.0 and 5.0 or 5.5, depending on the cultivar.

Both the highbush and rabbiteye types grow well in North Carolina. Highbush typically have larger fruit and better fruit quality than rabbiteyes, but are not as widely adapted to various soil types. The cultivar 'Premier' is an excellent choice for a rabbiteye and has the added advantage of being self-fruitful, unlike most blueberries that require cross-pollination for fruit set.

Dr. Jim Ballington, NC State University horticulture professor, has developed a series of Southern highbush blueberries that retain the high fruit quality of standard highbush but demonstrate greater adaptation to a wider range of soil types. Cultivars 'O'Neal,' 'Sampson,' and 'Legacy' are good choices. Little annual attention is required, except for occasional pruning.

### **4 Steps to Waterwise Gardening**

1. Create a plan that will minimize turf areas and include trees for shade. Select drought tolerant and native plants that require less irrigation. Use pervious surfaces when possible since these surfaces absorb nutrients and reduce surface water runoff.
2. Test the soil to determine the fertility status and lime requirements, then be sure to calculate amount of fertilizer needed. Use no more than necessary.
3. When planting the garden, till the soil as deeply as possible, add organic matter to the soil and create raise beds to ensure good drainage.
4. Maintain your garden by mulching often to conserve moisture. Compost grass clippings and prunings from the garden and reuse as a mulch and natural fertilizer for your garden. Keep fertilizer swept off the sidewalk and driveways where they will otherwise be washed into the river.

# 2008 DUES NOTICE

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

(But we will accept them now!)

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](mailto:jloughlin@ec.rr.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)

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