



Brunswick County Master Gardener  
Volunteer Association

# NEWSLETTER

Sept, 2007

## Upcoming Events...

**Aug 14<sup>th</sup>** Plant Clinic on Vegetables

**Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>** Regular Meeting

**Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>** Rain Gardens Seminar in  
Shalotte

**October 4, 5, 6<sup>th</sup>** Fall Plant Sale

**Oct 8,9,10<sup>th</sup>** .... State MG Conference in  
Raleigh

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/masgar/conference.html>

### **Master Gardener seminars for the Fall Season**

*"Winning the grass wars "and" Divide and  
multiply"*

Sept 12th, Leland Library, 10:00 AM

Sept 13th, Southport Library, 2:00 PM

Sept 15th, Southport Wal-Mart, 10:00 AM

Sept 21st, Hickman Crossroads Library,  
2:00 PM

*"Insuring color for Spring " and " Helping  
your growies have a Happy New Year "*

Nov 2nd, Hickman Crossroads Library,  
2:00 PM

Nov 7th, Leland Library, 10:00 AM

Nov 8th, Southport Library, 2:00 PM

Nov 17th, Southport Wal-Mart, 10:00 AM

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** Holiday Party

## Upcoming Speakers

**Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>** Reunion Social

**Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>** Toby Bost, Hort Agent, Forsyth  
County - authors books on gardening.

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

**Jan 24<sup>th</sup>** Dean Bennett - Brunswick  
Community College

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup>** Charlotte Glen - Hort Agent,  
Pender County - Plants for difficult  
situations.

**March** Ken Fager NCSU Growing  
Organic

**April** Peter Hertyl - NCSU - Ground Pearls

**May** Bryce Lane NCSU Gardening Ideas

**July** - Dr. Frank Blazich - NCSU - Summer  
Propagation

## We will Host 2008 MG NC Convention!

The membership voted to host next year's  
convention. Shirley will be sending out an  
email requesting volunteers to chair or co-  
chair committees or serve on a committee.  
Many hands make light work, so be sure to  
find somewhere to serve.

**Social: Becky Dus** spoke of the  
Reunion Social planned for September 27.  
She has some great events planned, so  
plan to come.

**Wilmington Hobby Greenhouse Club**  
FALL PLANT SALE - TWO DAYS ONLY!!  
Free Admission 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Friday & Saturday, September 7 & 8  
This is one of the main fundraisers for  
our non-profit club

## **Member News**

David Nash is facing cancer treatments and  
David Barkley asked all to keep him in their  
thoughts.

David Barkley will be having foot surgery at  
some time in the future.

**Will we see you at the August Meeting on the 27th?**

## State Conference Information

The 2007 Conference is three days of packed information. Registration forms were mailed to you the end of June. If for some reason you have misplaced this information it may be obtained via the following web site: [www.ncmastergardeners.org](http://www.ncmastergardeners.org) - click under events. Beginning on Monday the 8th with optional garden tours, plus a campus tour. Monday night there will be a Garden Design Competition plus a pig pickin at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum.

Tuesday will be a full day of educational speakers such as Bryce Lane, Pam Beck and Todd Lasseigne. The speaker for the evening will be Tony Avent, owner of Plants Delight Nursery.

On Wednesday there will be morning and afternoon concurrent sessions such as weed management, organic gardening and rain gardens just to name a few. Conference closes at 4:00 pm. Plants Delight Nursery will hold an open house after close of the conference. Shirley

## 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 the week of Oct 22nd. Approximately 750 plugs will arrive.

## For the Most Current Info...

Our website (<http://bcmastergardener.org/>) has a calendar that is now being updated regularly. Check it out and be a member that knows what is going on. Better yet, if you know of an event you feel our members would be interested in, email me and I will post them. [jloughlin@ec.rr.com](mailto:jloughlin@ec.rr.com)

Have you paid your Dues? They're only \$5/yr. Why not pay for several years at once and forget about it for a while?

## Blue Bird House for sale.

Bluebird houses continue to be sold in all 213 State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) branches for \$10 each, the cost to build each house.

### Elected Officers:

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## Joe's Kitchen

Dominique Loewenstein sent me this recipe and I'm going to use it right away. I worked with a farm family in Bulgaria about 12 years ago and the very best thing I was served while there was a dish they called Salsa Nita. It was full of the farm produce that was staple in their diets. They used it as sort of a condiment with meats. Domingue calls it Ratatouille, but I think it differs little from what I savored in that Baltic backwoods.

About 1 C olive oil

2 lbs onions, coarsely cut

2 lbs, elongated eggplant, thickly cut and cubed

2 lbs red/yellow/green sweet peppers, seeded, cut in squares

2 lbs tomatoes, peeled, seeded and coarsely cut

1 head garlic, cloves separated and peeled

Handful of coarse sea salt

Large bouquet garni (a bundle of herbs: thyme, bay leaf, parley stems, tied preferably in cheese cloth for easy removal at the end of cooking), including 3 bay leaves, several thyme sprigs

2 lbs small firm zucchini, cut in thick chunks

Freshly ground pepper

Fresh basil leaves

Warm the oil in an 8 -10 qt stockpot. Add onions, cook till softened, not colored, stirring with a wooden spoon, about 10 minutes. Add the other vegetables, except the zucchini, in the order above. Add salt. Continue to stir till vegetables begin to release their juices then turn heat to medium till liquid boils, a total of 45 min to 1 hr since the onions were added.



Bury the bouquet garni in the vegs and turn heat down to maintain a bubbling simmer. Cover with lid ajar. After 30 min, add the zucchini, forcing it down. Simmer for another 45 min. to 1 hr, till vegs are meltingly tender.

Drain vegs of their juices (a good way is to pour them into a large colander set in a large pot, in several batches.) Bring juices to a boil then keep at a gentle boil for about 1 hr till dark and syrupy, stirring as needed.

Return vegs to their cooking pot, remove the bouquet garni and add reduced juices and stir to gently to coat vegs in juices. Pour out into a bowl/platter to cool Grind pepper over and add some of remaining oil. Tear basil leaves and scatter (only on the portion you are about to serve); tightly cover and refrigerate the remainder. Can be served hot with grilled meats or stirred into scrambled eggs.

Serves 10 - 12 (I tried this, it's GREAT!)

## It's Fall Gardening Time David Barkley, Horticulture Agent Brunswick County

Getting the garden soil tilled, fertilized, and ready for planting of fall vegetables can be a rather tiresome job, especially with outside temperatures above 90 degrees F. Undoubtedly, most people would find it more comfortable under an air conditioner, but maximum results from gardening efforts are not always achieved under the most ideal of working conditions.

Vegetables that have a 60-80 day maturity cycle like rutabaga, cabbage, snap beans, and lima beans need to be planted in early August. Shorter season vegetables like turnips and leafy greens can be delayed in seeding until about mid-September. Keep in

mind that the planting dates can be as much as 7-14 days later in the Coastal Area. This length of time is based on the assumption that there will be adequate moisture so the plants can germinate and grow with minimum delay.

Before the soil can be prepared for the fall garden, a decision has to be made on what to do with the remains of the spring garden. About the only spring crops worth leaving will be okra, tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers; destroy everything else. The old vegetable plants should be put in the garbage and not the compost pile. Composting vegetable residue may contribute to future insect and disease problems if the temperature of the compost does not get high enough (at least 160 degrees F) to destroy the insects and pathogens. It is probably preferable to destroy the old vegetable residue entirely.

The soil should be worked to a depth of 6-8 inches. Poor soil preparation will yield a poor stand, and poor stands mean low yields. If the site is infested with weeds, be sure to allow sufficient time (about 10-14 days) for the weeds to decompose before final preparation, fertilization, and planting are done. Many gardeners also choose to add more organic matter to improve the tilth of the soil during this preparation stage.

Getting a good stand of fall and winter vegetables in the heat of the summer is no easy task. The secret to producing healthy plants is in modifying the seeding area of the planting row. Once the seed furrow has been opened, take a garden hose or watering can and wet the soil 3-4 inches deep. Allow the water to soak in. Then, plant the seeds in the furrow. Always plant more seeds than you need. Next, cover the seeds with compost, potting soil, or vermiculite instead of garden soil. A covering material such as compost will provide good aeration and eliminate soil

crusting. It is important to add additional water to the soil as needed to keep the seedlings actively growing. The plants should be thinned to the proper stand after they are 1-2 inches tall.

High quality vegetables and adequate soil moisture go hand in hand. Failure to provide sufficient water (1 inch or more per week) will put stress on the plants and reduce yields. It is drought, not heat that damages fall vegetables. Therefore, every gardener should water the fall garden regularly during periods of limited rainfall. To further combat moisture stress, use an organic mulch such as straw, leaves, or compost. Mulches not only conserve moisture; they help reduce soil temperatures and check weed growth.

It is not uncommon for insects and diseases to get their share of the fall garden. Most of the problems with insects and diseases are due to a buildup in their populations from spring through summer. There is hope in keeping these pests at tolerable levels if a few strategies are followed. First, review pertinent literature on insects and diseases in order to distinguish the difference between problem and non problem situations. Second, strive to keep the fall vegetables healthy and actively growing. Healthy plants are less susceptible to insects and diseases. Third, check the vegetable plants frequently for signs of insects and disease damage. When sufficient damage is detected, use an approved pesticide.

## **Garden Chores for September:**

- Some areas are having an excellent year for caterpillars, butterflies and moths. If you lose foliage from a

deciduous tree this time of the year, it will not hurt the tree. The leaves have already produced plenty of food for the tree and they would fall anyway in another month. The main reason to kill these fall caterpillars would be to keep the droppings off the sidewalk or out of the pool. Any pesticide labeled for caterpillars would work. Be sure to use one labeled for fruits or nuts if you plan to spray something edible. By the way, the ones that make webs this time of the year are commonly called fall webworms. Tent caterpillars will show up in the spring and their nests are normally in the forks of the tree. Fall webworms will make nests on the ends of the limb. Bagworms have individual protective bags instead of webs. It is too late Bagworms to control them with a pesticide. The good news is that the eggs will be laid inside the bag and hand-picking them will work from now until next June.

- Rising energy costs have some of us considering cost-saving measures, even when it comes to our lawns. Do you have more lawn than you need? Many urban landscapes are quite small, but there still are plenty of homes with huge expanses of grass. It is not difficult to convert a lawn to a forested area, although you may have to comply with certain zoning requirements. A forested area requires less energy to maintain.
- The high price of gas is still causing the cost of produce to rise at the grocery store. Support local growers by purchasing at farmers markets or, better yet, plan to put in a fall garden, if you have not already. Plant cool-weather plants such as lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, collards, spinach and other greens now, along with root

crops such as carrots, radishes, beets, onions and garlic. Turnips for roots need to be planted now. Turnips for greens can be planted until September 20. Season extenders such as cold frames or row covers can provide the necessary protection to help you produce well into the late fall or early winter.

- Consider growing some edible crops in your landscape. Choices for edible landscaping include blueberries, figs and grapes.
- Compost is not only good for your garden but making and using it is good for your community. Any leaves, grass clippings or pruning that go into the pile don't end up being collected by cities. Make a simple compost pile by incorporating a small amount of garden soil and a little fertilizer to a pile of leaves. Next spring you will have a supply of leaf mold to improve the structure of your garden soil. To achieve faster decomposition of the compost pile, turn the pile over every month or so during the growing season. More detailed information on composting: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/pdf/ag-467.pdf>

With the threat of heavy winds during hurricane season or the ice storms that may occur this winter, it is a good idea to check your trees for any potential hazards. Go to the International Society of Arboriculture Web site to learn how to identify defects within the tree that can make them unsafe.

<http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/hazards.asp>

# 2007 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))

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