



Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter June, 2009

Upcoming Events...

- June 10th Daylily Farm Trip
- June 6th Annual Water Garden Tour
- June 23rd Recognition Luncheon
- June 25th Regular meeting
- October 4-7 NCMGVA State Conference
"Environmental Stewardship" Mooresville, NC

Upcoming Speakers

June 25th David Barkley and/or Al Hight
July 23rd We have a new speaker for the July MG meeting. His name is Matthew Bookman and he'll be talking about snakes, "Befriend, not Behead". He'll also be bringing live specimens. This will be an informative and entertaining presentation!

Annual Daylily Trip The day lily trip is scheduled for June 10. We will leave the Extension about 7:30 and arrive at McDonald's located at Hiway 904 about 30-35 minutes later to pick up anyone from that end of the county. We will have two vans, but depending on the number wanting to go, some may need to drive. I understand there is a great lunch buffet in Tabor City. We may want to stop there on the way back but we'll see how things go.

Garden Workdays

June 16th & July 6th
Bring your enthusiasm!



Plant Clinics will now be

at the extension office starting at 10 am. Be there by 9:45 June 9th, & July 14th

Community Wetland Planting

and Clean Water Event Scheduled in Bolivia, June 16th. The event will take place at the Brunswick County Government Complex Cooperative Extension Offices (Building N) in Bolivia on Tuesday, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will learn about the health of their local creeks and simple things they can do in their back yards to protect area water quality. Information on back yard rain gardens and rain barrels and other steps people can take to reduce storm water runoff and nuisance flooding will be available. For those who want to get their hands dirty, there will be a volunteer wetland planting on-site.

NCMGVA State Conference

Sunday night dinner cruise on Lake Norman, on the Lady of the Lake.
Monday Tours: **NASCAR tour** - Lowes Motor speedway, Hendricks Motor sports, Dale Earnhardt, Inc. **Charlotte Garden Tour** - McGill Rose Garden, The VanLandingham Estate (listed on the National Registry of Historic Places). **Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden Tour** - Tour guides will be provided. Plus great speakers and workshops. Information should be mail in June or early July.

Will we see you at the June Meeting on the 25th at 9:00 am ?



Charlie says:

The recent plant sale again went well. Ash could use some help in rearranging the remaining plants in preparation for the summer months and the fall sale. We still have lots of veggies, flowers and plants if you need any. See either Charlie or Ash. The day lilies will be in bloom in a few weeks and we have some choice selections available. Thanks again for all you do for the Extension and the Master Gardener Program. Check out the new garden across the street from the office by the gas station. The Master Gardeners have supported the expanding Botanical Gardens for the last 5 years. Take time to enjoy them.

The President's Desk

Don't forget the Recognition Luncheon on the 23rd and be sure to get the pictures of your container gardening in on time. . There is always lots of good food and fellowship, our regular meeting is on the 25th. Program will be David Barkley and Al Hight.



Hot line, Greenhouse and restitution all need your help so volunteer. This is the busy time of year for all these projects.

I would like to thank Lynn and his group of Master Gardener volunteers for their work with the TILS project.

The newsletter can always use articles so if you have items of interest to Master Gardeners be sure and get them to Joe. The deadline is the 5th of each month.

Betty Gagliano, Joe's wife has been in touch with the BCMGVA stating how much the family appreciated our thoughts and prayers for the family. She also mentioned how much Joe enjoyed the program and all the members. If you know and see Betty, let her know we continue to think of the family.

Ash Tyler needs help on Saturdays 8-12 working with the restitution kids. His funding is tied to volunteer hrs, so let's help him out.

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Joe's Kitchen

Carolina Potato Gratin

4 lb mixed baby potatoes such as Red Bliss, Peruvian purple, and I add some sweet potatoes to mine.

2 1/2 cups of heavy cream
Half stick of butter

2 large sprigs of Fresh thyme, sage & Rosemary

2 crushed garlic cloves

Salt & Pepper to taste

1/2 cup grated Parmesan Cheese

Preheat oven to 400°

Cube potatoes into nice bite sizes into a large shallow casarole & salt & pepper

Combine cream, butter, herbs, garlic and simmer 5 minutes.

Strain mixture over potatoes, sprinkle with cheese, and bake approx 35 minutes till top browns



Meet a Master Gardener

Lynn Schwartzkopf was born 2/13, 1935 on a small farm in Columbus, IN. He has one sister and three brothers and more cousins than he can count. He has fond memories of growing up in Columbus even though his every move was watched and known by all. Everyone in this small town knew each other and everything that was going on.

The fun of spending summer on a farm was evident in "town" friends riding bikes to the farm

for base ball games in the cow pasture, and lots of other adventures. The summer also brought the receipt of the runt pig from Lynn's cousin Charlie's farm for Lynn's family to raise. Lynn recalls his Mother's cure all of giving the runts a dose of castor oil with the first meal. Lynn claims this produced the best tasting pork you could ever eat!

Along with his other brothers, Lynn graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. After only 6 months in Miami with Pan Am as an engineer, Lynn was "called up" by Uncle Sam and served the Army's Transportation and Research facility at Ft. Eustis Va. After his 2 year Army service, Lynn went on to a variety of jobs and positions that took him to IN, NY, VA, D.C. and NC. His longest employer was 20 years with CUMMINS Diesel of Rocky Mt., NC. ; as part of the "start up team", he helped build the facility, staff it and ultimately managed New Product Introductions.

Lynn and wife Katrina have a daughter and family which includes 2 granddaughters in Newport News, VA. Lynn is on the Board of Directors for the St. James Chapel, serves as Lay leader for services and sings in the St. James Chapel Choir, Chapelaires as well as Sea Notes.

After retiring from CUMMINS in 2000 Lynn and Katrina moved to St. James. Lynn was part of the 04 MG class and currently serves as VP of the BCMG association. He hopes to help guide the association toward a more active involvement in helping Brunswick County communities understand and appreciate the wonders and beauty of growing thing.

TILS garden is Growing!

32- 4X8, 1- 4X24, and 1- 4X40 raised beds have been built and are filled with garden soil. All beds have been planted, Beans,

Tomatoes Snap and Lima Beans, Squash, Okra, Cucumbers, plants are coming up & sprinklers are installed. Charlie advised that Walmart in Southport donated the seeds for this project. 50 male inmates signed up for the program; 11 passed the screening process. Female inmates also signed up and are being processed. Female Master Gardeners are needed to instruct them. Class subjects are being completed. Current plans are to start instruction mid June. Raleigh is creating a Task Force relating to this type of project. Al Height and the Sheriff are following up on information regarding funding.

June 2008 Hotline calls numbered 84 inquiries. The breakdown as follows:

General: 23. Of the 23 calls 3 requested Newcomer packets and 6 requested soil sample kits and the remainders were varied and concerned building /maintaining ponds, house plant care, etc.

Lawns: 29. The majority of calls concerned Centipede grass. The remainder concerned general questions about types of lawns for this area and weeds in the lawn. A number of the centipede calls were reporting dying portions of the lawn.

Shrubs: 6. Azaleas were the shrubs that had problems. Bugs on the shrubs were the major problem.

Trees: 22. Oaks, dogwoods, crepe myrtle, and sago palms seemed to suffer the most problems since they had the most inquiries.

Pests: 7. Information on getting rid of pests such as snakes, fire ants, spiders, etc.

Vegetables: 9. Tomato's had the most calls, along with Blueberries and grapes.

Suggestion! Save your NC Pest News

After you have read North Carolina Pest News, save it to a folder in your mail program for future reference. On Outlook Express you do this by going to "Folders" and create a new folder. Name it "Pest News". Each month after you have read it, select Charlie's message headline in your Inbox, click on "Edit" then "Copy to Folder". Choose the "Pest News" folder and it will be saved. Review recent issues before coming in for your Hotline session.

2009 Master Gardener Class Grads



Our Trip to JC Raulston & Plant Delights

No one brought home the nine-foot high elephant ear (*Colcasia gigantea* Thailand Giant Strain). There just wasn't enough room in either van. But for that, the 2009 Master Gardener class and some more seasoned gardeners were in gardeners' heaven during the May 13th trip to the JC Raulston Arboretum and Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh.

Hitting the road at 7, (not to be left in Charlie Spencer's dust) we soon were on memory lane. David Barkley pointed out specimen trees and favorite spots from his N.C. State student days at the Arboretum. A turn into the orderly universe of the Japanese Garden brings you to the

convoluted roots and colorful bark of a venerable crepe myrtle. A grove of cypress tree offshoots from the original specimen now form a secret retreat around a rustic bench. A vivid collection of Mountain-laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) exhibits its star-shaped bloom.



David showed us plants he grows in his garden from slips provided him by J.C.Raulston, the founder of the Arboretum. This sorely missed educator died in a car crash in 1996 at 56.

Not just as a pretty garden but a vital part of the nursery industry, the Arboretum was busy with trades people moving from station to station at the sound of an air horn that day. And test gardens for new introductions were planted – a good reason to plan a return trip. After lunch, a short drive took us to Juniper Level Botanic Gardens, the demonstration and research area for Plant Delights Nursery. We were privileged to have Tony Avent, its president and founder, as our guide. His robust IPM/BMP approach espouses no chemical fertilizers, insecticides or pesticides and relies on compost, soil microorganisms and planting in the right place to develop plants adapted to the southeastern US. The nursery has a commitment to release only non-invasive plants which, given their extensive research abroad, is critical. Their large hosta breeding garden, where plants

must grow successfully for six years before going to market, illustrated their commitment to quality plants. Since the nursery is only open to the public a few times a year, our private tour was especially appreciated.

We had pored over the Plant Delights Nursery's catalog during the ride to Raleigh and our lists of new acquisitions were ready. Let loose, we found our treasures among the nursery stock. While no one had enough confidence to buy the \$200 peony bred to perform in our climate, we came away with as many plants as the vans would fit without leaving Charlie or Dave behind. After all, they were driving.

Mary K. Donahoe

David Barkley

Extension Horticulture Agent

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service

June Gardening Tips

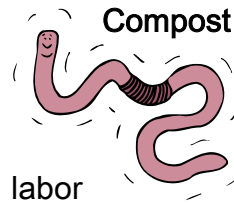
Turfgrass continues to come out of winter dormancy and with the expected high temperatures in the forecast, this means the grasses will really take off. Be sure to sharpen the blades on your mowing equipment. If the blades are too dull the grass will have a uniform brownish-gray cast to it after mowing. Now is the time to fertilize your Centipede grass.

Centipede prefers having just one application of fertilizer for the season and June is the best month to fertilize Centipede. One recommendation is to apply 10 pounds of 5:5:15 fertilizer per 1000 square feet of turf area. If you have other products that you need to use then you could take the first number on the bag

of fertilizer and divide it into 50 and that would tell you how many pounds of fertilizer to put out for the product you have or the product you are about to buy if you cannot find the 5:5:15. Example #1 - for a bag of 8:8:8 fertilizer you would take the first number - (8) and divide it into 50 = 6.25 pounds of fertilizer to apply to 1000 square feet; Example #2 - for a bag of 6:6:12 fertilizer you would take the first number - (6) and divide it into 50 = 8.33 pounds of fertilizer to apply to 1000 square feet. Other turf grass has different requirements and recommendations. Please call your local County Extension Office and ask for the appropriate turf guide to manage your lawn properly for the summer.



This is a picture of Ford standing in front of a century plant. The plants blooms only once in a century, once it is done blooming the entire plants dies. The bloom shoots 20 feet in the air. We will send you another picture once it is full bloom. Look closely at the top of the street light, you can see the buds getting ready to open. This is our first time seeing one in bloom, and we have lived here 15 years. This plant is not on our property. Lena Balch



Compost Use: With all the effort you've gone through since last fall, it should be time to utilize the fruits of your (and garbage you've been saving) labor. A properly functioning compost bin should be about "done" by now. Refer to one of the many information resources on Backyard Composting from the Horticulture Department if you need more information.



Want to work with a 4-H club? Extension is looking for leaders for Jr. Master Gardeners clubs; Level I are 3-5th graders Level II are 6-8th graders

Flag Day ** June 14th **

I am whatever you make me, nothing more. I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people may become.... I am the clutch of an idea, and the reasoned purpose of resolution. I am no more than you believe me to be and I am all that you believe I can be. I am whatever you make me, nothing more.



I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself, the pictured suggestion of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and my stripes are your dream and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith, because you have made them so out of your heart. For you are the makers of the flag and it is well that you glory in the making. ~Franklin Knight Lane

2009 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 _____

Mail checks to: **Gloria Rapp**

PO Box 10642

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)

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