



Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter September, 2009

Upcoming Events...

September 19th Plant Clinic Southport
Wal-Mart

September 24th Regular Meeting

September 28th Dave's retirement reception

October 4-7 NCMGVA State Conference
"Environmental Stewardship" Mooresville, NC

October 8, 9, & 10 Plant Sale

Dec 16th Holiday Luncheon

Upcoming Speakers

September 24 Mike Giles, NC Coastal
Federation

NC A&T Soils and Plant Growth

October 22 Hannelore Palmer
Landscaping

November 19 Larry Cahoon, UNCW
NC Climate Change

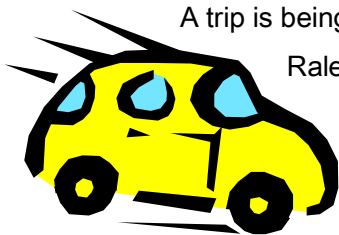
Garden Workdays

Sept 15th & Oct. 5th

Bring your enthusiasm!



Road Trip to Raleigh!



A trip is being planned to go to
Raleigh on Oct. 22nd and
23rd to attend the
State Fair, the NC
State/Duke Phytotron,

more about this later, and the J C Ralston
Arboretum. David has made arrangements for you
to stay at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Crabtree,

close to a big shopping mall. The cost per room
is 79.00 dollars, a special rate for 10 to 15 rooms.
The cost includes a "Deluxe continental
breakfast." You will be responsible for your other
meals and Fair entrance fee.

"The Phytotron is defined as a facility in which
plants can be grown and studied under widely
varying conditions ranging from desert heat and
drought to Alpine cold and jungle humidity. The
official purpose is to research the basic influence
of environment on primary growth processes in
plants." To be allowed to enter the Phytotron
requires a special invite. Dr. Blazich has made
the arrangements for us to visit. April Blazich,
Frank's wife, is the head of the entire State Fair
Horticulture Exhibit area. She will meet us and
give us a guided tour. The local Master Gardener
Association has a great exhibit.

The JC Ralston Arboretum is a must see
garden. David will be escorting you on the trip.
He is volunteering since he will be retired. He is
very knowledgeable about the entire Raleigh area
and probably won't get lost more than once or
twice. You'll be in good hands.

There will be a 10.00 dollar charge to help
cover gas, David's lunch etc. We must have the
room reservations called in no later than Oct.
10th. Please call Bette and let us know if you are
interested. The schedule will be provided later.

Will we see you at the September Meeting on the 24th at 9:00 am ?



Charlie says:

Watch UNC-TV Saturday, September 5th at noon for the season premiere of "In the Garden with Bryce Lane!"

Now in its seventh season, In the Garden continues to get rave reviews from viewers across the state and beyond. This program is a 30-minute home horticulture show that doubles as an introduction to horticulture course AND it's a product of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences! Bryce Lane, instructor in the horticultural science department hosts the show. Communication Services produces the program. In light of tough economic times, Bryce offers viewers ways to enjoy gardening without busting the family budget. In the season premiere, he provides a list of gardens across the state that viewers can visit for free! Find out more or watch online <http://www.unctv.org/inthegarden/>.



The show repeats Sundays at 11:30am.

The President's Desk

There is still time to register for the State Master Gardener Conference. The deadline for NCMGVA member discount has been extended to September 15th. Further information may be found at: www.ncmastergardeners.org If you are interested in helping with David's retirement see Bette, she will let you know what is needed. At trip to the State Fair is planned in October. If interested contact Charlie. Don't forget to sign up for the October plant sale.



David's Retirement Reception

Will be on September 28th 3:00 – 5:00pm
We will be doing "finger foods" and would welcome help from Master Gardeners with decorating and food.

Master Gardeners Board Elected Officers:

President

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

shirley312@webtv.net

910-754-4148

Vice president

Lynn Schwartzkopf

910-253-0722

Treasurer

Gloria Rapp

gprapp@atmc.net

910-253-4071

Volunteer Chairs:

Recording Secretary

Patty Burns

burnsdp@atmc.net

910-846-3317

Corresponding Secretary

Cathie Rod

csrod@ec.rr.com

910-457-5091

Library

Grace Wrigley

gwrigley@atmc.net

910-846-3341

MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

Charlie spencer@ncsu.edu

910-383-6432

NCMGVA Liaison

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman

shirley312@webtv.net

910-754-4148

Newsletter Editor

Joe Loughlin

jloughlin@ec.rr.com

910-269-4038

Restitution & Greenhouse

Ash Tyler

atyl@ec.rr.com

910-278-6101

Gardens

Fred Mina

fminga@theminas.net

910-278-6205

Banquets/Parties

Becky Dus

bdus@ec.rr.com

910-253-8937

Membership

Dominique Loewenstein

domilo@2khiway.net

910-579-0161

History

Barbara McCoy

mccoy@atmc.net

910-575-7679

Webmaster

John Baronowski

jbaronowski@ec.rr.com

910 454-9601

Joe's Kitchen**Muscadine Grape Cheese Pie**

A friend invited me to pick some grapes from their vineyard. I filled a 5 gallon bucket and brought them home. So

what now? I really don't need any grape jelly and I don't care for Muscadine wines. I started by washing and pressing as much juice as I could from the grapes. That produced about 2 gallons of raw juice (green in color). I think I will just drink it as is over ice; no sugar added. Then I cooked the hulls for about 30 minutes and put them through a sieve. That produced another gallon of a brown thick liquid that would need sugar to be used.

I tried and liked this recipe with it:

1 refrigerated pie crust

8 oz of cream cheese, softened

1/3 cup sugar

2 large eggs

1/4 tsp almond extract

1/2 pint of sour cream

1 1/2 tablespoons Sugar

1/2 tsp vanilla

3 cups of the sieved Grapes

Sugar to taste (make it sweet!)

1/4 cup of tapioca

Place pie crust in a deep 9" pie pan and crimp the top. Beat the cream cheese until fluffy; add sugar, eggs and almond extract. Beat until thoroughly mixed and

pour into pie crust. Bake for 25 minutes at 350°. Cool and mix together sour cream, sugar, and vanilla. Spread over the baked layer of cheese and return to oven for 10 minutes. Cool and mix together Grapes sugar and tapioca. Let stand for 15 minutes and then cook until thick. (I added some red & blue food coloring to make it purple) Cool to room temperature and spread over pie fillings. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving. Great with vanilla ice cream!

Plant Seminars are September 18 at Hickman Crossroad, September 19 at Southport Wal-Mart, and September 20 at Leland Library

**TILS garden gets a suspended sentence!**

We launched our classes, but our schedule was too long. Between getting started late and doing the

classes over multiple weeks, we ended up losing our class to releases of inmates. We plan to schedule the next set of classes in a shorter time frame.

The fall garden is in and growing. Hopefully we soon have the bugs worked out of the program.

Life on the Farm

Blair is in the process of scheduling session. If you have not done this, it's a great experience. Be ready to volunteer when the call comes.

Sept 2008 Info Line calls numbered 68 inquiries. The breakdown as follows:

General: 18. 8 requested soil sample kits & interpretation of analysis, the remainders requested mulch and garden information, plus 2 newcomer kits.

Lawns: 16. Problems with Centipede grass (6). General questions about types of lawns for this area and disease(5) in the lawn.

Shrubs: 5. Azaleas, camellias and gardenias had problems with insects and caterpillars.

Trees: 22. Fruit trees posed problems and spurred interest, particularly peach, pear, and apple trees. Red Maples, Crepe Myrtle, Palms, Magnolia, Dogwood, and Pine had calls to the Infoline.

Pests: 9. Callers wanted information on getting rid of various pests such fleas, bagworms and ants. Fungus was a particular problem on trees and on the lawn.

Vegetables: 5. General gardening information and specifics on collards

Flowers: 1. One lady asked question "how to save her mandevilla through the winter" .



David Barkley

Extension Horticulture Agent

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service

Garden Chores for Sept.

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. Speaking of bagworms, it is too late to control them with a pesticide. The good news is that the eggs will be laid inside the bag and hand-picking the bags will work from now until next June.

- Rising 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

NEWSLETTER September 2009

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 national economy is still causing an economic crunch for many and 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. For info on composting go to

<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>

Spring Bulbs, Peonies, Evergreens



- ◆ Garden centers will soon start to display wonderful varieties of spring bulbs. Now is the time to buy to get the best selections, but hold off on planting until the temperature has cooled off. Bulbs can be stored in a cool, dry location to await planting. Consider trying some of the more unique bulbs such as fritillaria, colchicum, chionodoxa (Glory of the Snow), the various alliums, scilla or lycoris.

NEWSLETTER September 2009

- When landscaping for energy efficiency, choose evergreens for the north and northwest side of the house where they will block winter winds without limiting winter sun. Block early morning and late afternoon summer sun by planting deciduous trees to the east and west of the house, including the southeast and southwest corners.

Getting Turf Ready for Winter

Though winter is still months away, now is the time to start preparing your lawn for cold weather. Winter damage can be a problem in our area and shows up as large dead spots in spring. This is often caused more by our fluctuating winter temperatures than by extreme cold. When temperatures go up in winter, some grasses like centipede are tempted to start growing too early. When winter warm spells are followed by sudden cold temperatures, winter damage is the result. There are a couple of things you can do now to help your lawn make it through the winter in good health, and be ready to grow away vigorously next spring.



Fertilizing in Fall – Think Potash!

When most people think about fertilizing their lawn, they think of encouraging lush, green growth. This is true for spring and summer, when nitrogen is the most important nutrient for lawns, but not for fall. Applying nitrogen fertilizers in fall can increase winter damage and encourage disease problems. **The nutrient to concentrate on in fall is potassium**, which is sometimes called potash. The nutrient potassium is responsible for increasing winter hardiness, and improving disease

and drought tolerance in turf grasses and all plants. What's more, many of our sandy soils are naturally low in potassium and any potassium that is applied leaches away at a moderate rate. To determine which nutrients are in any given fertilizer look at the three numbers on the front of the fertilizer bag. These numbers represent the percentage amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium contained in that bag of fertilizer, and are always listed in that order. When fertilizing in fall choose a fertilizer that contains little to no nitrogen or phosphorous and moderate levels of potassium.

The best way to know how much potassium to apply to your lawn is to rely on soil test results from the NC Department of Agriculture. Soil testing is free to NC residents and samples can be taken at any time of the year. If you have not sampled your lawn or garden in the past two years contact your local Cooperative Extension office for soil testing supplies.

If you do not have soil test results think about the nutrients you have applied this year. If the fertilizers you put out had low potassium levels (for example if the last number on the bag was less than 10) and you have sandy soil, your lawn would probably benefit from applying one pound of actual potassium /1000 square feet. This can be done by applying 1.6 lbs of muriate of potash (0-0-60) or 2 lbs of potassium sulfate (0-0-50) per thousand square feet of lawn area in late August or early September.

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)

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

P.O. Box 109

Bolivia, NC 28422

Office: 910-253-2610

www.bcmastergardener.org

<http://brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu/>

www.ncmastergardeners.org

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