



# Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Newsletter

January 2012 Volume V Issue 01

## Upcoming Events...

**Jan 05, 2012** – DIY Class Holden Beach Soil & Fertilization

**Jan 10, 2012** - 2012 Master Gardener Training

**Jan 12, 2012** - Boiling Spring Lakes Vegetable Seminar

**Jan 18, 2012** - Gardening Seminar for Brunswick Newcomers Club

**Jan 26, 2012** - Monthly Membership Meeting

**May 1-4** - Registration open for the Southern Region Master Gardener Conference, in Natchez, Mississippi

**May 20-23** – NCMGVA Conference at Doubletree-Biltmore in Asheville, NC

[Click for details](#)

## TRAINING

### Master Gardener

Jan 10-May12 Tuesdays 9am-12pm

### Day in the Yard

Feb 02-Mar 08 Thurs. 2-4:30pm St. James

Feb 21-Mar 27 Mon. 3-5:30pm Bolivia

Sep 10-Oct. 22 Mon. 9-11:30am Bolivia

### Brunswick County Community College

Supply campus

Mar 1 & 8 Basic Landscaping Thurs. 2-4:30

Mar 22 Pruning Thurs. 1-3:00

Apr 5 Irrigation Thurs. 1-3:00

Apr 12 Basic Gardening Thurs. 1-3:00

South Brunswick Islands campus

Mar 15 Basic Gardening Thurs. 1-3:00

Leland campus

Mar 28 Pruning Thurs. 1-3:00

April 26 Irrigation Thurs. 1-3:00

Check the Calendar on the NCSU Website for all current events. [Click here](#)

## Scheduled Speakers

**Jan 26** - Heather Burkert - Sustainable Farming

**Feb 23** - Cape Fear Bonsai Society - Intro to Bonsai

**Mar 22** - Charley Winterbauer - bird friendly backyards

**May 24** – NHC DE Al Hight, Drip Irrigation

## Garden Workdays

January 10<sup>th</sup> for a morning of weeding, etc. We will start at 9 am and will work till 11 am.

**Bring your tools and enthusiasm!**

## Officers for the 2012:

**President** - Dominique Lowenstein,

**Vice President** - Beverly Mastrovich

**Treasurer** - Hank Rapp

**Nominating committee** - Loretta Nauta and Dorothy Hunkele.

## 2012 Budget

The Budget Committee will present the operating budget for 2012 to the membership for approval at the January meeting.

## Proposed Changes to By-Laws

Initially assembled to consider a discrepancy in a financial approval limit, the By-Laws Committee is proposing several minor revisions to the by-laws, to be reviewed by the BCMGVA board in January and offered to the membership for approval in February.

If you have an item for the newsletter, submit it to  
Hank Rapp before the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month  
([hankrapp@atmc.net](mailto:hankrapp@atmc.net))

**Will we see you at the regular meeting on Jan 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am?**

### Library addition

A new book, **The Illustrated Guide to Pruning**, has been added to the library collection

Webmaster, John Baronowski, asked if anyone might be willing to help keep the website postings up-to-date. Because he will be away a great deal of time next year, John cannot always upload information and implement changes in a timely manner.

### December Holiday Party

Our annual Holiday party was organized by Pat Sams this year. The agenda included a farewell song “Goodbye Joey” for our past-President Joe Loughlin, a devotional prayer led by Ron Wedekind, and featured great food. Thanks to the committee of Pat, Dotti Hunkele, Loretta Nauta, Kay Forbes, Barbara McCoy, and Vicki Kay. Helpers to set up and clean up Becky Dus, Hank and Gloria Rapp as well as Susan, Betty and Gina.

There were 23 entries submitted for the ornament contest. First place winner was Pat Sams with an ornament that really rocked – it was made from rocks from stream in Sapphire, NC. Moss, lichen (found locally) and Tillandsia (air plant) attached in between with rope covered wire as a hanger.



Second place was Long-leaf Pine cone holly berries, nandina and wax myrtle berry



awarded to Hank Rapp’s decorated with holly and berries, yaupon berry clusters.



Loretta Nauta’s entry of a bird perched on a nest resting on an Osage Orange won 3<sup>rd</sup> place. She found the fruit growing along a highway in Virginia where the prickly plants are used as a barrier to keep cattle

out of gardens etc. They are named after the osage indians. The rest of the ornament is grapevine tendrils, lichens and a small bird made of grasses and feathers.

### Master Gardeners Board

#### Elected Officers:

##### President

Dominique Loewenstein  
[domilo@atmc.net](mailto:domilo@atmc.net)  
910-579-0161

##### Vice president

Beverly Mastrovich  
[cmastrovich1@ec.rr.com](mailto:cmastrovich1@ec.rr.com)  
910-454-0206

##### Treasurer

Hank Rapp  
[hankrapp@atmc.net](mailto:hankrapp@atmc.net)  
910-253-4071

##### Volunteer Chairs:

##### Recording Secretary

Linda Lemieux  
[lindalemieux1@gmail.com](mailto:lindalemieux1@gmail.com)  
910-253-4245

##### Corresponding Secretary

Pat Hagerty  
[gene-pat@earthlink.net](mailto:gene-pat@earthlink.net)  
910-253-3099

##### Library

Grace Wrigley  
[gwrigley@atmc.net](mailto:gwrigley@atmc.net)  
910-846-3341

##### MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

Tom Woods  
[tom\\_woods@ncsu.edu](mailto:tom_woods@ncsu.edu)  
910-368-1695

##### NCMGVA Liaison

Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman  
[shirley312@webtv.net](mailto:shirley312@webtv.net)  
910-754-4148

##### Newsletter Editor

Hank Rapp  
[hankrapp@atmc.net](mailto:hankrapp@atmc.net)

##### Restitution & Greenhouse

Ash Tyler  
[atyler@ec.rr.com](mailto:atyler@ec.rr.com)  
910-278-6101

##### Gardens

Fred Mina  
[fmina@theminas.net](mailto:fmina@theminas.net)  
910-278-6205

##### Banquets/Parties

Patricia "Pat" Sams  
[psams@atmc.net](mailto:psams@atmc.net)  
910-575-5322

##### Membership

Dominique Loewenstein  
[domilo@atmc.net](mailto:domilo@atmc.net)  
910-579-0161

##### History

Barbara McCoy  
[mccoy@atmc.net](mailto:mccoy@atmc.net)  
910-575-7679

##### Webmaster

John Baronowski  
[jbaronowski@ec.rr.com](mailto:jbaronowski@ec.rr.com)  
910 454-9601

From the President's Patch

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, at the suggestion of Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman, I attended the state board meeting of the NCMGVA.



It was a WOW and an eye opener. How little was I aware of the scope of this group's knowledge, learning opportunities and multitude of important garden sites. Let us not forget that our state association also sponsors and furthers our state-wide annual conferences.

I had not realized the extent of the Master Gardener and Extension interconnectivity. Our programs are all based on the research and findings of NCSU as well as that of affiliated universities. In turn, the Cooperative Extension programs depend on our volunteer groups to convey their important knowledge to the communities that they, the Cooperative Extension venues, are mandated to serve.

Then, a shock: I had been oblivious to the costs of our initial education ("The Course") and all aspects of our subsequent training. I will offer this information in a later message.

*Dominique*

Botanical Garden Water Feature

The water feature in the back of the garden is completed. It is surrounded by perimeter stones and one of them will be engraved for Richard Boland.



**Joe's Kitchen**

TIRED OF ALL THOSE SWEET CHRISTMAS COOKIES?



**CRANBERRY-PECAN CHEESE WAFERS**

MY WIFE JUST MADE A BATCH OF THESE COOKIES THAT SHE PULLED FROM A RECIPE IN

*Southern Living*. THEY ARE CHEESY, NUTTY, AND JUST A LITTLE SPICY. THEY ARE A NICE CHANGE FROM FROSTED CHRISTMAS COOKIES.

MAKES: 8 DOZ 2 INCH WAFERS

- ✓ 1 ½ CUPS CHOPPED PECANS
- ✓ 1/12 CUPS COARSELY CHOPPED SWEETENED DRIED CRANBERRIES
- ✓ 2 CUPS OF BUTTER, SOFTENED
- ✓ 4 CUPS (16 OZ.) SHEDDED EXTRA SHARP CHEDDER
- ✓ 1 ½ TSP. SALT
- ✓ 1 ½ TSP. GROUND RED PEPPER
- ✓ 4 CUPS ALL PURPOSE FLOUR
- ✓ PARCHMENT PAPER

1. PREHEAT OVEN TO 350@ BAKE PECANS IN A SINGLE LAYER 8-10 MIN(STIR AT 4 MIN) TILL TOASTED & COOL



2. MEANWHILE SOAK CRANBERRIES IN BOILING HOT WATER UNDER A COVER FOR 15 MIN. DRAIN & PAT DRY. 3. BEAT BUTTER & NEXT 3 INGREDIENTS AT MEDIUM SPEED UNTIL BLENDED. GRADUALLY ADD FLOUR TILL COMBINED. REMOVE FROM

MIXER AND STIR IN CRANBERRIES & NUTS. SHAPE DOUGH INTO 4- 2 IN. X 1 FT. LOGS. WRAP EACH WITH PLASTIC AND REFRIGERATE FOR 8 HOURS TO 3 DAYS. (YES THAT WAY YOU CAN SERVE THEM WARM IN A HURRY)

4. PREHEAT OVEN TO 350@ CUT LOGS INTO ¼ INCH WAFERS AND PLACE ON PARCHMENT PAPER LINED BAKING SHEETS. BAKE 13-15 MINUTES UNTIL SLIGHTLY BROWN. TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES TO COOL.

Green Resource

The Green Resource facility on Rt 17 in Shallotte (opposite Jones Ford) is now providing/ accepting soil test kits.

## "Info Line" problems from the Past

### December 2010

There were 36 inquires to the infoline. The breakdown was as follows:

**General: 15.** Of these calls 6 requested soil sample kits. The remainders requested general garden information, pruning and transplanting information and Newcomer packets.

**Lawns: 4.** The calls concerned weed and disease problems with Centipede grass and Zoysia grasses.

**Shrubs: 4.** There were 2 calls for Oleanders and 1 for Confederate Rose and 1 for dieback on Azalea plants.

**Trees: 6.** Questions about transplanting Sago palms in December and when to expect Crepe myrtles to bloom.

**Pests: 2.** Callers wanted information on getting rid of moles.

**Vegetables: 1.** The call was for information on growing upside down tomatoes.

**Flowers: 4.** Confederate Rose, Roses, hydrangea and hibiscus were the plants that had questions.



### January 2011

There were 21 inquires to the infoline. The breakdown was as follows:

**General: 14.** Of these calls 7 requested soil sample kits. The remainders requested general garden information, pruning and transplanting information and Newcomer packets.

**Lawns: 2.** The calls concerned disease and weed problems with Centipede grass.

**Shrubs: 0.** There were no calls for this category.

**Trees: 2.** Questions concerned fruit trees and Leland cypress.

**Pests: 2.** Callers wanted information on getting rid of pine bark beetles and aphids.

**Vegetables: 0.** There were no calls for this category.

**Flowers: 1.** The caller wanted information on growing roses.

## Mr. Tom says

Tom Woods, MG Coordinator – Coop Extension

### THIS and THAT

Dates for the Spring Plant Sales in April and May have been set. The April sale will be April 5, 6 & 7; the May sale will be May 10, 11 & 12. Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman will manage the April sale and Joe Loughlin will manage the May sale. Dates for the October sale will be set early in 2012. The fall plant sale will be reduced from 3 to 2 days. We have not had enough customers at the fall plant sale to justify three days.

Both of the above events have been added to the master calendar so that you can volunteer to help.

At our last Membership meeting I reviewed three problems that we are encountering on Thuja in Brunswick County. The first is a leaf miner problem that can be treated in early spring with imidacloprid spraying. The second was Pestalotia twig blight that requires pruning out the dead foliage. The third was soft scale that can be treated with horticultural oil. Since we recommend Thuja as superior to Leyland Cypress, we need to be knowledgeable of how to deal with these problems.

In my neighborhood, many people are experiencing pine tree beetle damage and misdiagnosing the problem critter as Southern Pine beetle. The beetle most often causing the damage is Black Turpentine beetle. The infestations of Southern Pine beetles are fatal and require removal of the tree whereas the Black Turpentine beetle infestations are not normally fatal and can be controlled with byfenthrin. I will discuss this problem in greater detail at our January meeting. See you there!



*Tom Woods*

## Susan Brown

Extension Horticulture Agent  
Brunswick County Cooperative  
Extension



Susan Brown:  
Extension Horticulture Agent

I hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday and a fabulous New Year! A lot was accomplished in 2011 but **2012** is **our year to excel!** Tom, Dominique and I have carefully gone through our membership and made adjustments as needed. Every certified Master Gardener must fill out a re-certification agreement to make the commitment to volunteer a total of 40 hours this year (2012). These hours cannot be accumulated by doing the same task all year. For instance, you participated in your neighborhood on several garden projects. This task must first be approved by Tom or I to even be considered volunteer time. As Master Gardeners it is important to engage in new experiences and trainings to challenge yourself to learn more about coastal gardening. We offer many pre-approved volunteer opportunities such as: Info Line 5 days a week, plant sales 3 times/year, farmers markets, public events such as Sunset at Sunset, seminars, restitution on Saturdays, greenhouse work, botanical garden work, attending monthly meetings, taking classes online through the [ncsugarden.org](http://ncsugarden.org) website, helping with National Jr. Horticulture training every Wednesday, teaching Day in the Yard classes, helping out with Life on the Farm or Jr. Master Gardeners or becoming a Master Gardener mentor for a new student. As spring gets closer these opportunities will grow.

This month the Master Gardener class of 2012 will start on January 10th. National Junior Horticulture training began on Wednesday January 4th. The Day in the Yard class at Holden Beach started January 5th. Next month the propagation class will begin. We will be

holding a pesticide container recycling collection day on January 18th. Anyone interested in helping with this event contact me directly. Don't forget about our monthly garden workdays on the second Tuesday of each month.

The two projects that I really want to accomplish this year are the Talking Tree Trail and an upgrade on the meandering stream in the botanical gardens. I know it is going to be a great year and I look forward to working with everyone of you and, as always, happy gardening.

Thanks,  
*Susan Brown*

### New Year Resolutions for Gardeners

In the months of January and February the weather is cooler and there is less work to be done in the garden. It is a great time to plan for the upcoming spring. As gardeners, there are steps that we can take to improve the environment and ecosystems that surround us. Consider adopting one or more of these resolutions for your garden in the New Year:

- Choose plant varieties that are low maintenance and easy to grow at the coast. Figs, muscadine grapes, rabbiteye blueberries and persimmons all grow well in Brunswick County. If you must grow pears, choose a variety that is resistant to fire blight (a common disease in our area) such as Seckel, Moonglow, Kieffer, or Magness. Avoid planting crops that will require a lot of pesticide sprays to produce a quality crop.
- Incorporate fruit and vegetables into your landscape. Fruit trees can be a beautiful ornamental tree or shrub and small fruits and vegetables can be intermingled amongst your annuals and perennials. This helps to encourage diversity in the garden and native insects prefer that type of habitat. It also enhances the garden by providing different texture to the landscape.
- Plan to grow vegetables year round. In most coastal counties you can grow some sort of crop in the winter months. Row covers can be used to protect these crops from frost. Careful planning can provide you with a year round harvest and reduce your grocery bill. Crop rotation is a must in our area.

- Commit to composting! Composting is a sustainable way to deal with garden waste and household food scraps that provides you with a valuable soil amendment and can reduce your fertilizer and pesticide applications. Adding compost to the soil increases the soils ability to hold water ,thus improving plant growth and productivity.
- Harvest, store and use your rainwater. Use cisterns or rainbarrels to collect the water that runs off the roof – use this water first to irrigate your lawn, garden and container plantings.
- Minimize your water needs. Improve the water holding capacity of your soil by adding organic matter. Mulch exposed soil in gardens and flowerbeds to suppress weeds and maintain soil moisture. When designing new plantings, choose plants that will be drought tolerant once established. Some examples are as follows: Crape Myrtle, Chinese Hollies, Junipers, rosemary, thyme and ornamental grasses.
- Consider adding chickens, bees or other small livestock to your yard. If you are up for the additional responsibility and commitment, chickens, ducks, guinea hens, rabbits or other small livestock help cycle nutrients in your garden. Carefully managed poultry can control insect pests and weeds while providing nitrogen and phosphorous to improve soil fertility. Bees pollinate many of our vegetable crops. The loss of native pollinators makes the efforts of beekeepers even more important.

Whichever resolution you choose, I want to wish you and your garden a Happy New Year!

Susan Brown

## Lichen Can Be Sign of More Serious Problems

From *Pender Gardener*

Charlotte Glen, Horticulture Agent, Pender County Cooperative Extension December 29, 2011

As the leaves fall from trees and shrubs you may notice the stems of some of your plants covered

with a grayish green crusty or mossy looking growth known as lichen (pronounced “liken”). Lichens will grow on anything that sits still long enough, including slow growing plants, tree trunks, rocks, fence posts, fallen logs, tombstones, and even the ground.

When lichens are found growing on trees or shrubs, it may simply be a sign that a plant is naturally slow growing, such as Japanese maple, or that it is an older plant that is not growing at a vigorous rate. Lichens do not harm the plants they grow upon, but often plants that are struggling will be covered in them. When lichens are found growing prolifically on a plant that also has lots of dead twigs and branches it is usually a sign that something more serious is wrong.



To learn more about lichen and the problems they are often associated with, read the rest of the article on the Pender Extension website, <http://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=news&ci=LAWN+163>.

If you have questions about what is wrong with plants in your lawn, garden or landscape contact your local Cooperative Extension office. I

Learn more about lichens on trees and shrubs from this Alabama Extension fact sheet: <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0857/ANR-0857.pdf>

# 2012 Dues Notice

**Dues are \$10.00 per Individual,  
payable from January 1 to March 1 each year to  
Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association (BCMGVA)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Please detach here

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Note: Only certified Master Gardeners can be members of BCMGVA. Before paying dues be sure that you have enough volunteer hours to be a certified Master Gardener. Check with Tom Woods if you are uncertain of your status.

Complete this form and mail with your check to: **BCMGVA**  
PO Box 10642  
Southport, NC 28461

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Useful links for online access:

[www.bcmastergardener.org](http://www.bcmastergardener.org)  
<http://brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu/>  
[www.ncmastergardeners.org](http://www.ncmastergardeners.org)

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

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Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association  
P.O. Box 109  
Bolivia, NC 28422  
Office: 910-253-2610

Postage  
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