



Master Gardener

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

February, 2008

[Upcoming Events...](#)

- Feb 5th** First Tue MG Class
- Feb 16th** Tidewater Camellia Fest.
- Feb 19th** Work Day in Garden & Greenhouse
- Feb 20th** First Wed MG Class
- Feb 27th** Pro Day Seminar
Cape Fear Community College
- Feb 28th** Regular Meeting
- Feb 29th-30th** Brunswick Home & Garden Show
- Feb 29th** Master Gardener Day at
Southern Spring Home & Garden Show - Charlotte
- March 1-4** Philadelphia Flower Show Trip
- March 1** Hobby Greenhouse Tour
- March 3** Work Day in the Garden or Greenhouse
- April 10,11,&12** Spring Plant Sale
- Oct 5-8** 2008 MG Conference in Brunswick County
- Dec 10th** Christmas Party

Upcoming Speakers

Feb 28th Chris Moorman is an Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist at NC State University. As for his responsibilities, Chris works with professionals and private landowners interested in the effects of land management practices on wildlife. His presentation topic for our meeting will be "Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants."

- March 27th** Ken Fager NCSU Growing Organic
- April 24th** Peter Hertyl - NCSU - Ground Pearls
- May 22nd** Bryce Lane NCSU Gardening Ideas
- June 28th** Frank Galloway - Plants for local use
- July 24th** Dr. Frank Blazich - NCSU - Summer Propagation
- Aug 28th** Charlotte Glen - Plants for difficult situations
- Sept. 25th** Ronda Sherman - Vermicomposting
- Oct 23rd** Toby Bost
- Nov. 20th** updates by horticulture staff

2008 Dues are due! [See back page.](#)

I think Charlie is back from Greece, but has so far been silent. We know that won't last!

Wanted! Name our Newsletter

Send Me your suggestions
jloughlin@ec,rr.com

58th Tidewater Camellia Club

Show on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008 12:00 – 5:00 at the Walter L. Parsley Elementary School, 3518 Masonboro Loop Road.

Dr. Bruce Williams leads a tour to Lewis Ginter, Longwood, & Winterthur Gardens, Philadelphia Flower Show, & Monticello March 1-4. Contact Liz Coughlin 392-1930.

Wanted: Herbarium to make a collection of dried plants mounted and labeled for use in scientific examination. See Shirley.

**Will we see you at the February Meeting
on the 28th at 9:00 am**

From the Presidents Desk ...

Thanks to all who attended the January meeting. We have a great speaker for February check page one! Cathie Rod has agreed to serve as the President's appointment to the Nominating Committee. We are all busy with the '08 conference. We will have sent out over 200 letters to potential vendors, sponsors, etc. Later we will need to contact individuals personally. Tours, speakers, workshops, conference tote bags and shirts are being arranged. A conference flow chart is in the works. We mail conference announcements to all Master Gardeners by the end of June. Registration deadline without a late fee is September 1st. Join the state assoc. (NCMGVA) and receive a discount for the conference. You may pay NCMGVA dues with your conference registration and receive the discount.

Lynn Schwartzkopf

Coffee grounds are a readily available source of organic material. Starbucks has a national program of packaging 5 lb. bags and offering them free to the public. Port City Java also said that if you provide a bucket, they will save them for the public.



The Grounds contain about 1.45% Nitrogen, are slightly acidic, and hold water in the soil. They can be used to top-dress acid loving plants like blueberries or as a slow release nitrogen source in your compost. The proper amount to be used depends on the condition of the soil and, more specifically, what you are growing in your garden. Mixing coffee grounds in your compost acts as a green material with a carbon-nitrogen (C-N) ratio of 20-1. They make an excellent addition to your compost. Combined with at least 75% browns such as leaves and straw, coffee grounds generate heat and will speed up the composting process. Anecdotal evidence suggests that worms are very attracted to them so you can feel free to use them in vermiposting (worm bin) situations if you desire. For more information about composting: compost.org (Composting Council of Canada) compostingcouncil.org (US Composting Council) mastercomposter.com

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Joe's Kitchen

I found a winning recipe last night. It's easy, makes a good presentation, and taste great!

Smoked Paprika Roasted Salmon

½ Cup of Orange Juice
3 T. of Olive Oil (divided)
2 tsp. of Dried Thyme Leaves (divided)
8 Salmon Fillets Servings
1 T. Brown Sugar
1 T. McCormick's Gourmet Smoked Paprika
1 tsp. McCormick's Gourmet Saigon Cinnamon
2 T. Orange Zest
½ tsp. of Sea Salt
2 Bags (10 oz) Baby Spinach

Mix juice, 2 T. oil, & 1 tsp. thyme. Place salmon in a glass bowl and add marinade. Turn fillets to coat and refrigerate at least 30 minutes.

Mix rub of sugar, smoked paprika, cinnamon, salt, 1 tsp. of orange zest, 1 tsp. of thyme leaves in small bowl. Place fillets on a foil-lined baking pan and discard the marinade. Rub top of salmon evenly and bake 10-15 minutes in a 400° oven; meanwhile heat 1 T. of oil in a large wok or skillet over medium heat. Add spinach and stir 2 minutes until wilted. Serve Salmon over a bed of spinach.



Ash Needs Help- He is at the greenhouse from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. everyday to show people what needs to be done. Help is needed anytime in moving plants, weeding, and deadheading. We have more plants for the spring sale than ever, but they won't be their best without help.

Changes? Address, phone number, or e-mail addresses need to be updated. Call the extension office or bring them to the membership meeting.

FIRST GARDEN VEGETABLES SHOULD BE PLANTED SOON

Although it's still too early to plant popular garden vegetables such as tomatoes, beans and corn, it's just the right time for "Coastal Carolina" gardeners to plant cool-season vegetables. Plant them early in the growing season because they stop producing when hot weather comes. Among the first planted in the garden are cabbage, carrots, head lettuce, onions, Irish potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, spinach, turnips, edible pod peas and garden peas (English peas). Soon after they are in the ground, it'll be time to plant broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, mustard and Swiss chard.

Planting times vary among the different types of vegetables and in different parts of the state. For instance, if you live in the upper Coastal Plain or lower Piedmont regions, you should plant carrot seeds between Feb. 15 and March 1. In western North Carolina, delay planting for 10 to 20 days. And in eastern North Carolina, plant 7 to 12 days earlier.

Those interested in planting cool-season crops may request a copy of the Home Vegetable Gardening Manual.

David Barkley

Extension Horticulture Agent
Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service

FEBRUARY GARDEN CHORES

- Plant early vegetable gardens such as peas, sugar snaps, onion seeds, head lettuce, carrots, etc...
- Use only fresh new 2008 packaged seed. It is not wise to save seed, particularly hybrid seed, since seed will lose vigor or produce plants not true to type.
- Purchase quality seed from reputable dealers or garden centers.

- Purchase varieties that grow well in your regions or area.
- Select varieties that have resistance to major diseases such as rust or nematodes.
- Keep up with varieties that are genetically superior to older varieties.
- Pansies are by far the most popular winter landscape annual. Deadhead periodically to ensure more blooms. During active growth in the spring fertilize them about once a month.
- Don't let unseasonably mild temperatures dictate what you do in the landscape.

PRUNING CAMELLIAS: Camellia japonica can be grown as a large evergreen shrub or a small tree and they can also create an excellent screen. The best time to prune is when the blooms fade....about this time of year on many plants. Remove spent flowers to prevent seed formation. If possible, try to make pruning cuts just above the thickened, rough area on the stem.

Camellia Problem: A client called and said her camellia puts on good green foliage and a lot of pretty buds but they never open and eventually they will turn brown, rot, and fall off every year. This is a common problem in camellia called "bullnose". It is not known to be caused by a pathogen. It is a genetic problem related to the specific cultivar and/or possibly weather conditions. No treatment is available. If it reappears consistently each year then the plant should be replaced. With other plants the "bullnose" condition may only appear sporadically."

Winter Lawn Care: February will be a good time to evaluate your turf. The lawns that will need the most attention are the ones that are green and brown! The green parts are the cool season grasses and weeds - fescue,

bluegrass, annual bluegrass, etc. and the brown areas are the warm season grass species-Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia or dead areas. The goal should be to have one or the other, and not both. Consult the Carolina Lawns publication from your local Cooperative Extension Office for complete information on renovating turf areas.

Garden Clean-Up: The soil may be too wet to work, but it's never too wet in landscape beds to add mulch. Generally, this time of year the beds could stand a late winter touch-up. Add a fresh layer of pine needles or bark to the beds.



EVERGREEN AZALEAS IN ORDER OF BLOOM:

Many landscape projects are planned and planted in the fall for a great display in the spring. Azaleas are great landscape plants and perform beautifully if planted in the correct microclimate - under tall pine trees in rich, well-drained soil, with a sprinkler system would be ideal. It is possible to have a prolonged season of bloom (2 months) from the azaleas if numerous cultivars are used. The following is a list of popular azaleas according to their normal sequence of bloom.

Early: Hino de-giri, Sherwood Red, Coral Bells, Tradition, H.H. Hume, Hershey's Red, Snow, Hino Crimson, Delaware Valley.

Midseason: G.G. Gerbing, George Tabor, President Clay, Formosa, Rosebud, Elaine, and Pink Camellia.

Late: Gumpo, Lady Robin, Martha Hitchcock, Harris Purple, Higasa, Pleasant White

2008 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: **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)

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www.bcmastergardener.org
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