



Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

November, 2007

Upcoming Events...

Nov. 17th Fall Seminar Southport Walmart

Nov. 29th Regular Meeting – Dick Bir

Dec. 1st Camellia Symposium at the NHC Arboretum

Dec 13th Christmas Luncheon Party

Dec. 13&14 Festival of Lights

Upcoming Speakers

Nov 29th Dick Bir - Retired - worked at Fletcher Research Station in Fletcher NC. Native & Exotic Plants for You !!!!

Jan 24th Dean Bennett - Brunswick Community College - Plant Diseases

Feb 28th Chris Moorman - Wildlife Management

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 24th Toby Bost

Nov. 29th updates by horticulture staff or in the garden tape.

November Meeting Date !!

Since the 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving, the general meeting will be on the 5th Thursday **November 29th**. Election of Officers! Great Speaker, Dick Bir !!

Native & Exotic Plants for You !!!!

2008 MG NC Convention In Brunswick County

October 5-8 – Please Volunteer

Many of the committees in support of the conference have been filled up but we still need quite a few more volunteers. Some of the spaces where we need help include: Donations from the community for door prizes, soliciting ads and sponsors from the business community in both South and North Carolina, Soliciting items to fill the welcome bags. We don't expect individuals to do this on their own, but to work on teams. I need the names as soon as we can get them even though the actual work will not start until after the New Year and things have settled down. Contacting the businesses will NOT be cold turkey as we will send out letters identifying ourselves and stating the purpose and what we are doing. As I look down our roster, there are many qualified folks that can really help us make this the best Conference ever. We still need help on all committees so if no job above excites, I'll be glad to discuss some of the other options.

Please help so I don't have to call too many people! I should be back into work the week after next on a fulltime basis.

Will we see you at the November Meeting on the 29th?

Camellia Symposium at the NHC Arboretum

On December 1, 2007 the Tidewater Camellia Club is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Camellia Symposium at the NHC Arboretum. It would be greatly appreciated if you could inform your members of the FREE event. There will be displays of camellias and three speakers. Cindy Watson is co-owner of Cam Too, the largest camellia nursery in the United States. Dr. Ray Campbell was the former head of the NC soil test division. Bill Howell is a former agent at the Arboretum and a senior member of the Tidewater Camellia Club. 9-3 Three Seminars - 9:00 A. M. to Noon

Budget Time

It's that time again! Please prepare your budget requests for the coming year and submit them to Al Smith (asmith126@ec.rr.com) by November 19.

Thanks, Richard Boland

Christmas Party is Dec. 13th at 12:30. Invitations will be in the mail shortly. Make a note that the Master Gardeners donate canned and dry food to the County Family Assistance organization each year. Please remember to bring your donations of food for those less fortunate.

The Festival of Lights this year will be held on the evenings of Dec. 13th and 14th starting around 6:00PM. We will need help setting up and lighting the Luminaries and preparing the big room for the kids. Help us make this a wonderful event for both kids and parents.

Member News

David Barkley has had foot surgery and will be laid up for sometime. We wish him a speedy recovery and that he has some valuable down time.

Ash Needs help!

Plants and seeds have been coming in hot and heavy. We need help! More will arrive the week of Nov. 12th. Even more plants will arrive the week of Dec. 3rd. The last of the plants for the Spring sale will arrive the week of Jan. 7th. We still have a lot of work that needs to be accomplished in the Garden.

Master Gardeners Board Elected Officers:

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Joe's Kitchen

Everywhere you look this time of year you see Sweet Potatoes for sale. I bought a bag at the Southport Waterfront Market last Wed., but when I saw them for 25¢/lb. at Walmart, I had to buy more. The good news is....you can fix'em a zillion ways...and I love them any way you fix'em! Baked, mashed, soufflé, fries, pancakes, fritters, pie, custard, chips. Today I give you my new recipe:

Don't count the calories!

Sweet Potato Soup

- 2 Large Sweet Potatoes
- 1 Can Chicken Stock (14oz)
- ½ Cup Brown Sugar
- ½ Stick of Butter
- 1 Tsp Cinnamon
- ¼ Tsp Nutmeg
- 1 Pt. of Heavy Cream
- 1 Pt. of Sour Cream
- Salt To Taste

I start by microwaving the potatoes till soft. Peel and cut into a food processor. Add everything but the Heavy Cream & Sour Cream and run at high speed till smooth. Pour into stock pot and warm till just below boiling. Slowly add the cream and serve immediately. Garnish with a dollop of Sour Cream.

The exact amounts for the ingredients may need adjusting based on the potatoes. You may need to add more stock if too thick. Don't get hung up by the amounts above, just make it taste Good!

Have a happy Thanksgiving!



“Charlie Said”

Time to start bringing your **Volunteer Time Sheets** up to date. With David out, I'll need extra time to get everything caught up. We will be sending out info on the new classes starting in Feb. Talk it up. If you haven't been out to the Greenhouse lately, you need to stop and see all the great plants that are being readied for the spring plant sale.

Winterizing the Herb Garden

If treated properly, many herb plants will survive in the garden for a number of years. Others are sensitive to frost or severe cold weather and must be brought indoors, protected, or replanted each year. Annual herbs will be killed with the first hard frost in the fall. Remove dead plants in order to minimize overwintering insects and disease problems. Some frost sensitive herbs, such as basil and geranium, can be brought indoors for the winter. Take cuttings to root or pot the entire plant.

Many perennial herbs are winter hardy in all or parts of North Carolina and can be left in the garden. A few plants are marginally winter hardy; in a mild winter they survive but may die during a severe winter. They can be brought indoors to overwinter. Unless they receive adequate light indoors they may drop some of their leaves. Lemon verbena is a deciduous plant; it will lose all of its leaves indoors.

After a severe winter, some outdoor plants such as rue, sage, thyme, and southernwood, may appear brown and dead. The leaves may simply be dehydrated or the plant may be dead almost to the ground. Scrape the bark of a few stems to determine the extent of damage. If the stem is green, delay pruning until after new growth begins. Additional information on winter hardiness of specific herbs can be found in the table

Common Name	Scientific Name	Hardy	Comments
Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	M, P, C	
Artemisia	<i>Artemisia</i> spp.	M, P, C	good drainage
Basil	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	--	Tender annual
Bee balm	<i>Monarda</i> spp.	M, P, C	
Caraway	<i>Carum carvi</i>	M, P, C	Biennial; lightly mulch
Cardamon	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	---	Tender annual
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch; wind protection
Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch
Comfrey	<i>Symphytum uplandicum</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch
Coriander (cilantro)	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	---	Tender annual
Costmary	<i>Chrysanthemum balsamita</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	---	Tender annual
Echinacea	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	M, P, C	
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	M, P, C	
Feverfew	<i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch
Garlic	<i>Allium sativum</i>	M, P, C	Plant cloves in fall; lightly mulch
Garlic chives	<i>Allium tuberosum</i>	M, P, C	
Garlic, elephant	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	M, P, C	Plant cloves in fall; lightly mulch
Geranium	<i>Pelargonium</i> spp.	--	Tender annual; bring indoors
Lemongrass	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	--	Tender annual
Hops	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	M, P, C	
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch
Hyssop	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	C	Tender perennial
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	M, P, C	Hardiness varies with cultivar;
Lemon balm	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch
Lemon verbena	<i>Aloysia gratissima</i>	C	Tender perennial;
Marjoram	<i>Origanum majorana</i>	C	Tender perennial;
Mints	<i>Mentha</i> spp.	M, P, C	Lightly mulch; wind protection
Oregano	<i>Origanum</i> spp.	M, P, C	Hardiness varies with species
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	---	Biennial; treat as annual
Pennyroyal	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	P, C	Provide wind protection
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarianum officinalis</i>	P, C	Tender perennial;
Sage	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch; wind protection
Sweet cicely	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	M, P, C	
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch
Tarragon	<i>Artemisia dracunculoides</i>	M, P, C	wind protection; good drainage
Thyme	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	M, P, C	Hardiness varies with cultivar;

Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	M, P, C	Lightly mulch
Verasum	<i>Verbascum</i> spp.	M, P, C	

* Normally hardy in: M = Mountains, P = Piedmont, C = Coastal Plain

Improving Winter Survival- Most herbs benefit from a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch during the growing season. Mulch is an adequate winter protection for herbs such as mint, chives, and fennel providing protection to minus 20oF. Rosemary, lemon verbena, and a few other perennial herbs are not reliably winter hardy. Extra winter protection can be provided by cutting plants back to within a couple inches of the ground after the first hard frost and covering the remaining stub with soil. Then cover the soil with a 4- to 5-inch layer of mulch. For lemon verbena, the use of a microfoam ground cover (the packing material used around fragile items) also works held down with soil works very well providing over 95% survival in most years. An alternative method is to encircle the plant with a cage of hardware cloth or chicken wire. The cage diameter should be about 12 inches larger than the plant (6 inches on each side). Fill the cage with mulch. Herbs should not be fertilized after early August. Avoid significant pruning (light harvesting is acceptable) in August which will stimulate new growth. Also, avoid severe pruning in late fall since winter hardiness is reduced until the cuts have healed. Woody plants should not be severely pruned within 4 to 6 weeks of the first severe freeze. Excessively wet soil or sites with standing water can decrease winter hardiness of some plants. Keep plants adequately watered during late summer and fall. Drought stressed plants are weaker and are often less cold hardy. Water during a dry winter, especially before a severe freeze. This is especially true for evergreen plants that will lose water from their foliage on bright, sunny days even when the ground is frozen.

2008 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)

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